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TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY • IT DIVISION

2021

Almanac



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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



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Welcome to the 2021 IT Division Almanac

The 2020-21 academic year was full of significant change and growth for the Division of Information Technology. I am proud to preface this year's almanac with the promise of stories from around the division showing our staff's great strides to impact and support the university.

Although it seems so long ago, I do not forget last winter's record-breaking ice storm and its impact on the university. Without hesitation, our people met the challenge and helped equip staff, faculty, and students with the technology necessary to work remotely successfully. Thank you all.

In December 2020, Canvas was instituted as the new, official learning management system at the university. You will learn about the major undertaking and how division staff worked together to smoothly transition to the new structure.

You will read about the brilliant Buck Winn mural unveiled in the Albert B. Alkek Library in the fall of 2020. The 82-foot hanging piece of art is displayed on the library's second floor and has a fascinating history.

Also, the Texas State Esports Club got a new arena this year in the LBJ Student Center. The division was instrumental in building the high-performance space. You'll learn more about that endeavor as well.

These stories and more show the hard work of the Division of Information Technology and our dedication to Texas State University students, faculty, and staff. I graciously welcome you to the 2021 IT Division Almanac. Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "KR Pierce". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kenneth R. Pierce
Vice President for Information Technology and CIO



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Key decisions helped maintain communication through the storm

Many Bobcats struggled through last winter's snow and ice storm, which crippled Texas and led to power outages and water shortages. But thanks to some smart long-term decisions and the hard work and dedication of staff in the Division of Information Technology, essential university technology services remained operational through the storms.

Thanks to Vice President Ken Pierce's vision to move vital services to the cloud, tools like [BobcatMail](#) and [Microsoft Teams](#) continued to function even with power outages on both Texas State campuses.

"Access to Teams was critical to operations as it served as a central place for staff to communicate and keep informed about what was going on," said Ben Rogers, associate vice president of the IT Assistance Center (ITAC).

Staff from across the division were part of an IT response team created in Microsoft Teams. Those around-the-clock communications throughout the event allowed work to happen that bolstered the ability to protect essential systems on campus.

"If our email servers were on the premises, email would have gone down," said Pierce.

The same is true of several other vital systems in the cloud rather than housed in on-campus data centers, including most of TXST Canvas, which is on Canvas servers. There is also an emergency backup for the university website maintained off campus. It prevents readers from getting "site unavailable" messages and allows the university to post updates until the central infrastructure is back up.

"By utilizing the cloud, we were able to continue some level of services for students, faculty, and staff, despite the power outages," Pierce said.

Not every system was immune to the problems, of course. But division staff were there to help. Staff worked hard to catalog and repair damage to on-premises systems like university phone lines and network infrastructure that support wi-fi and other systems.

Written by IT Marketing and Communications staff.



Network infrastructure enhancement, better reliability

Workers from Consolidated Communications (CCI) spliced together high-speed fiber lines and activated a new telecommunications facility on the San Marcos campus in Spring 2021, which created a more reliable Texas State University network.

Mike Krzywonski, director of Network Operations in the Division of Information Technology said the improvement gave the university network a level of redundancy it has never had before.

Network Operations built a highly redundant network to serve the Texas State campus, with multiple internet circuits running along multiple paths to protect against cable damage and equipment failure. But a single point of failure existed where the network connects to our internet provider. This new on-campus facility removes that single point of failure.

“In the past, if there had been a long outage or some sort of natural disaster in just the right location, it was possible to lose internet service and it could be out for a while,” Krzywonski said. “With this second CCI facility on campus, we will have redundancy, giving us more options to protect and maintain the Texas State network.”

Texas State gets its internet through a consortium known as the Lonestar Education and Research Network (LEARN), which serves higher education institutions in Texas. LEARN

has facilities in San Antonio and Dallas and offers a connection between institutions and large vendors who offer internet services. Consolidated connects Texas State to LEARN’s fiber-optic network running along Interstate 35 between San Antonio and Dallas.

The university worked with CCI for many years on the current network connecting to the San Marcos campus. In a unique deal, the university paid no additional costs for this second connection, instead offering the company an easement near the edge of campus to construct a new facility. Consolidated built a small building to house their telecommunications infrastructure. CCI not only improves Texas State network reliability but also services other customers in San Marcos.

Currently, university-owned fiber connects the main campus to STAR Park, which then connects to the Interstate 35 fiber. With this second location near Bobcat Stadium, a “metro loop” was created around much of San Marcos providing an alternate second path to I-35 fiber. “Having this redundant system improves reliability for the Round Rock Campus,” Krzywonski said.

“We have worked with Consolidated for more than two years on this particular effort to improve the reliability of the network,” he said. “It’s an exciting time.”

Written by IT Marketing and Communications staff.



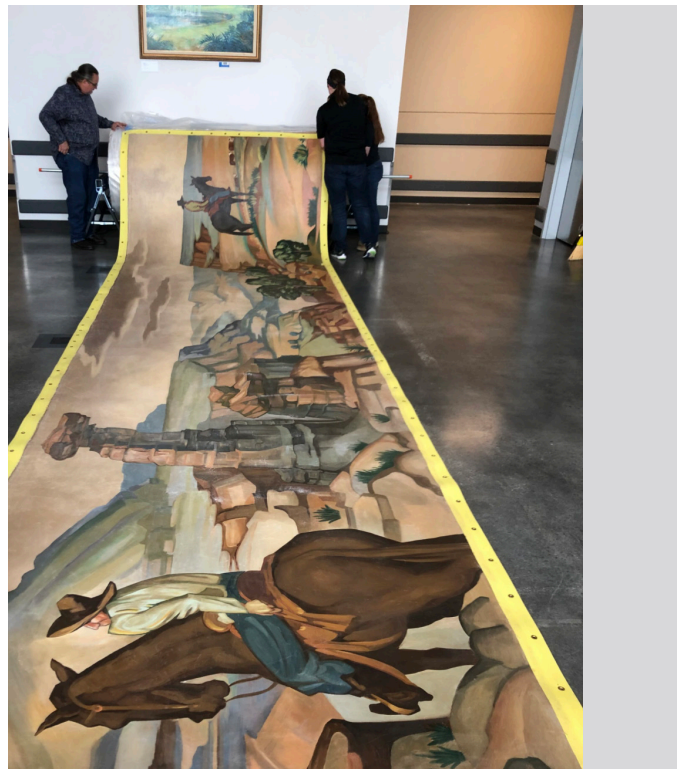
Buck Winn mural unveiled at Alkek Library

In the Fall of 2020, the Albert B. Alkek Library received a massive new addition in décor. There is now an 82-foot mural hanging on the second floor of Alkek – one with an interesting history.

James Buchanan “Buck” Winn painted the three panels of “The History of Ranching” in 1950 when the Pearl Brewery in San Antonio commissioned him. He was asked to depict the story of cattle ranching in Texas. Texas State’s [The Wittliff Collections](#) acquired the mural in the 1990s with big aspirations to display it in the Alkek Library. Still, the mural was in bad shape and needed restoration.

The Wittliff Collections’ mission is to collect, preserve, and share the artistic process that springs from the Southwestern imagination. It is located on the seventh floor of Alkek Library. David Coleman, The Wittliff’s director, has penned a blog post detailing the long road from acquiring the mural, to restoring it, to the unveiling. Check out the mural’s fascinating story on [The Keystone Blog](#).

Written by IT Marketing and Communications staff.



The mural arrives at Alkek Library.



James Buchanan "Buck" Winn.



The mural undergoing restoration.



Detail of the mural.



Level Up! Next-level classrooms for remote learning

Distance Learning Platform (DLP) classrooms are a level up from the previous ITV technology, allowing faculty to connect to classrooms i, and to individual students in different locations.

The next generation of DLP classrooms installed June 2021 in the McCoy College of Business Administration have increased the capability to:

- Have more hybrid or hyflex courses.
- Allow guest speakers to present to a class remotely.
- Interact with both in-person and remote students.

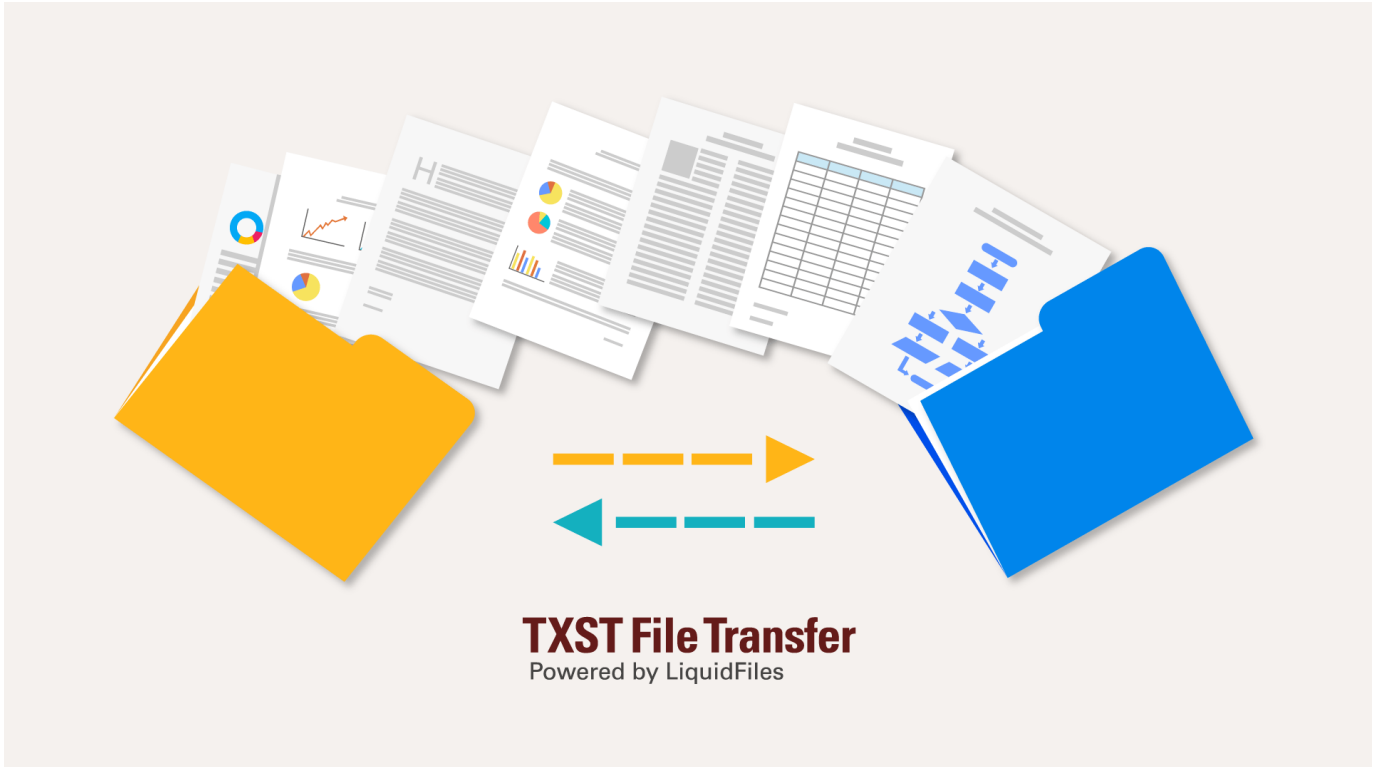
Additional displays on the back wall of the classroom give the instructor a gallery view of their remote students, which feels as if they are present with in-person students. Concerned whether an instructor will be heard when someone else is talking? No need to worry. These classrooms include one ceiling microphone with eight lobes to pick up clear audio of the presentation and class discussion. The lobes towards the front of the classroom, where an instructor would typically be located, are prioritized to make sure the instructor can always be heard unless muted.

Another cool feature added to this type of classroom is the whiteboard companion. The whiteboard companion sits on a height-adjustable stand and allows the instructor to share a

digital whiteboard or annotate over content like a PowerPoint presentation.

In addition, Zoom offers various content-sharing features. Workshops are held before each Fall and Spring semester begins to educate faculty and staff on the functionality of these spaces. Check [SignUp](#) for more on these workshops.

Marina Walton is an instructional technologist for Learning Spaces.



Improved system for securely sharing and receiving files

Bobcats received access to an improved, secure file transfer system on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020, called TXST File Transfer.

TXST File Transfer is powered by LiquidFiles, a virtual app that helps companies and organizations send, receive, and share large files rapidly and securely. It replaced a long-standing university file transfer program and offers several unique features.

Using the system, all Bobcats can transfer files within the Bobcat community and with external collaborators.

Users access TXST File Transfer through a web browser. The system includes features that make file transferring easier than ever. Bobcats can still send and request files from individuals as before, but now they can also:

- **Send a file to one or more people.**
- **Receive notifications when files are uploaded.**
- **Access these tools:**
 - **User File Drop** – a URL you can use to securely send and receive files.
 - **Group File Drop** – a permanent file drop location that can be set up as a form to securely receive/notify a group upon receipt of files.
 - **FileLink** – Upload a file and get a randomized URL to share with anyone you want to download the file.

Ryan Lara is technology architect in the Technology Resources unit of the IT Division.



Insider look at TXST esports arena in LBJ

The Texas State Esports Club got a new arena in the LBJ Student Center in 2020, which features top computer gear and accessories sponsored by the Division of Information Technology. The club plays competitive multi-player games online against some of the top universities in the country, for cash prizes and more.

The arena is in Boko's Living Room on the first floor of the student center. It has 12 stations available, plus additional seating for audience members. Each station is equipped with Alienware Aurora R9 desktops, Alienware 25-inch monitors, keyboards, mice, headsets, and cameras. The gear upgrade is exciting and a fantastic opportunity for the players, as the computers can run all their titles with ease and high performance.

The Esports Club can host tournaments in their new space and run regular training and online matches with different games. In addition, the projector in the room allows club members to review previously broadcasted live streams (VODs) of specific games. In the past, they would have in-house tournaments for games like Super Smash Brothers, League of Legends, and Overwatch. The games are hosted online and feature Apex Legends, Rainbow 6 Siege, Rocket League, and League of Legends, but hopefully, there will be in-person or even a hybrid of online and in-person events with the new space.

The arena will only be available for the Esports Club team, and four additional stations will be set up in George's Lounge for public use. If you are interested, joining the club is easy! Although rank is considered, there is no rank requirement to join a team. Tryouts are held for the titles listed, and those who have stand-out performances and the knowledge needed are chosen to make the team. The club also welcomes those who are not interested in being on a team roster because it encourages casual gaming as well! [Hop into the team's Discord](#) for information on joining.

The university aims to accommodate the diverse interests of students. The Esports Club has over 600 members. The arena provides teams with an in-person place to practice and participate in online tournaments. Hopefully, the arena will also allow players to connect better and make the community more personal.

The Division of Information Technology helped sponsor the club through the top gear provided in the new space – which should help promote the success of these elite gamers. The space opened in December 2020. For additional information and questions, reach out to Chris Canik, Esports Club president, at crc331@txstate.edu.

Written by IT Marketing and Communications staff.





Canvas officially arrived at Texas State

On December 15, 2020, Canvas officially became the new learning management system at Texas State.

The IT Division led the project management and implementation of Canvas. Still, even before that, we organized calls for proposals from prospective vendors, sent out faculty surveys, formed a university committee to lead the project, and more. Exploration of the idea to get a new learning system for the university started in 2017.

The advisory committee, made up of faculty, staff, and students, recommended that the university choose Canvas from among a group of potential vendors in spring 2019. The purchase was approved in August of that year.

Thus started the great migration. By the fall 2020 semester, the vast majority of courses were being taught in Canvas. The message was clear to everyone, move to the new system and take advantage of improvements in the way you teach using learning systems. So many people have moved into Canvas and embraced its power, and they have done so with enthusiasm.

Many faculty also stepped forward to volunteer for the [Canvas Champions program](#), a group of faculty leaders sharing their Canvas experiences and expertise with their fellow faculty.

Meanwhile, the IT Assistance Center (ITAC) ran Canvas training courses almost weekly in 2020. In addition, faculty attended Camp Canvas – an intense three-day event where users learned how to get started in Canvas and take advantage of its long list of impressive features.

Often changes of this magnitude cause issues. But to the credit of everyone at Texas State, that was not the case. Everyone who asked for help got it. ITAC made sure everyone was ready for the spring 2021 semester. Thanks again to every Bobcat for having made this long transition a positive one.

Written by IT Marketing and Communications staff.



Microsoft Seamless Single Sign-On

Do you get tired of entering your password repeatedly? The Division of Information Technology understands! We have a goal to reduce the number of times you must enter your password. The fewer times you need to enter a password, the lower the possibility of entering a password into a fake site. Balancing security measures with your experience online is tough, but we believe we are continually getting better at it.

In May 2021, we rolled out a feature called Seamless Single Sign-On (SSSO). The feature only affects on-campus University devices joined to the TXST domain. SSSO will log you into Microsoft 365 when you log on to your domain-joined Microsoft Windows or Apple workstation. Thus, you will be in Microsoft 365 on your computer without having to log in separately.

See SSSO compatibility by operating system and browser below.

*Requires Internet Explorer version 11 or later. (As of August 17, 2021, Microsoft 365 apps and services stopped support of IE 11.)

****Microsoft Edge based on Chromium

If you are still being prompted for a password on a university-joined computer when signing on to Microsoft 365, make sure to do the following:

- Connect to the TXST network (cabled or wireless).
- Update your web browser to the latest version.
- Apply any system updates.

Note: You may see inconsistencies in Seamless Single Sign-On as there are countless permutations of system patch levels and operating systems.

As with any system, please ensure the site you are entering your password on is legitimate. If you do not know it is a legitimate site, [ask the IT Assistance Center!](#) For example, Microsoft's login page will always use HTTPS (in the top left of the address bar) and through login.microsoftonline.com. If you see those two things and see university branding on the site, you should be good to go.

We hope you like your evolving online experience!

Ryan Lara is a Technology Architect for Network Operations.



The newest star of Alkek One: YouStar Video II

Alkek One is the Albert B. Alkek Library's shining gem, and it was recently upgraded! The YouStar Video II is now open. It has many of the same great features patrons love in YouStar Video I: an automatic greenscreen, 4K camera, and an in-studio audio and video recording system. The studio also includes an updated sound system and professional-grade lighting.

If you're looking to take your content to the next level, the Alkek One service desk also has a Sony 4K camera kit, an Insta360 camera kit, lavalier microphones, lighting equipment, and more available for checkout to enhance your production experience.

It's not just the advanced technology that makes the studio shine. The Learning Spaces team designed YouStar Video II's simplified workflow. Check out this video showing just how easy it is to use:

Head to TXST Reserve to [make your reservation](#) for YouStar Video II.

Kina Wright is YouStar Studios supervisor for University Libraries.



[Watch the YouStar Video II Tutorial](#)



Streamlined course evaluations with EvaluationKIT

EvaluationKIT is now the system for course evaluations at Texas State. Online end-of-semester course evaluations received a new and improved design in 2020.

There are many advantages to using EvaluationKIT. Most notably, it integrates with Canvas and is mobile-friendly. This creates a better user experience for students and should help drive up response rates. Built-in reporting options are more robust, and reports are easy to access. EvaluationKIT also provides departments the freedom to control their evaluations on a very granular level.

Students can now access their course evaluations one of two ways: through Canvas or a link sent via email. When evaluations launch for a department, students will get a pop-up when they reach the Canvas Dashboard or when they click into the course. It's important to note that if a student clicks directly into a quiz in Canvas, they will not see a pop-up regarding course evaluations, and they can take their quizzes and exams without interruption.

Faculty and staff can access evaluation reports by clicking the link in their Canvas courses or by visiting the Course Evaluations support page to log in. Department administrators have access to more robust reporting options as well.

We are excited about EvaluationKIT and hope it delivers a better overall experience for students, faculty, and department administrators.

Laura Jones is a trainer in the IT Assistance Center.



New feature can help protect against phishing

The Division of Information Technology released a new tool in the fight against phishing. As of May 2021, any email a Bobcat receives from an email address outside the Texas State domain (txstate.edu) is considered “external” and includes a visual cue to alert you to think before you click.

Bobcats receive phishing emails nearly every day. Phishing messages target users via email, phone, or SMS text, to lure victims into providing sensitive data that can be used to commit cybercrimes. Technical controls filter out many malicious email messages targeting Texas State users, but sometimes a clever phishing email slips through.

The external email cue will present two warnings at the bottom of emails not from Texas State email addresses.

If the email comes from an authorized third-party with an established, university-wide relationship with Texas State (Adobe, for example), a green bar will appear at the bottom of the email with the following message:

NOTICE: This email originated from a third-party that has an established relationship with TXST. Caution should still be used when downloading files or clicking links as these are external services not operated by TXST.

If the email comes from an unknown third-party, the following message will appear on a gold background:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the TXST network. Do not click links or download files unless you know the sender and content are safe.

The goal of these cues is not to label all external emails as dangerous, nor to try and stop anyone from outside Texas State from emailing you. Instead, we hope to alert you to the origin of the email. In many cases, bad actors format emails to make them look as if they originated internally when they did not.

If you want to learn more about the dangers of phishing, our Information Security Office has two great resources for you:

- [The phishing page on the Information Security Office website](#) offers a definition of phishing, tips on tell-tale signs someone is trying to steal your information, and instructions on what to do if you think you have received a phishing email.
- [The Phishbowl](#) is your go-to resource for knowing the latest phishing attempts making their way through Bobcats’ emails. These phishing attempts can range anywhere from straightforward attempts to get you to click on a download, to more sophisticated phishes dressed up as job opportunities.

There are many ways criminals attempt to get your important personal information. You must remain vigilant and actively take steps to protect yourself online. We hope our new external email cues will help you identify and report phishing emails to help stop attacks against all Bobcats. If you think before you click, the odds you fall for a fraudulent email are significantly reduced.

Written by IT Marketing and Communications staff.

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Staff excellence:

Academic and professional leadership and service

Lisa Ancelet, research, instruction and outreach librarian; **Dianna Morganti**, research, instruction and outreach librarian; **Jessica McClean**, research, instruction and outreach librarian; **Stephanie Towery**, copyright officer; **Amanda Price**, monograph acquisitions librarian; and **Laura Waugh**, digital collections librarian, were recognized and awarded the Scholarly Communication Notebook grant for the development of open educational resources (OER) that reflect and encourage diversity in scholarly communication.

Joan Heath, former associate vice president and university librarian, served as Member at Large on the Greater Western Library Alliance Executive Committee during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Joan Heath, former associate vice president and university librarian, served as a representative on the Texas Library Coalition for United Action Steering Committee during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Ginger Williams, head acquisitions librarian, developed and implemented negotiating strategies, reviewed and provided feedback on licenses and title selection workbooks, coordinated weekly Texas Library Coalition for United Action office hours from March -July 2021 for representatives of 43 Texas libraries participating in the Elsevier negotiation.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, served on The Electronic Library's Editorial Board as a reviewer during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, served as a reviewer for the International Journal of Knowledge, Content Development and Technology during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, was selected from a dynamic pool of Texas library leaders to participate in the Texas Accelerated Library Leaders Institute class of 2020 by the Texas Library Association.

Jessica McClean, research, instruction, and outreach librarian, served as subject editor for the Research for College Libraries' Building and Construction Trades during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Steve Davis, curator, served as an outside reviewer for Texas A&M University Press during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Steve Davis, curator, served as an outside reviewer for Texas Christian University Press during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Tricia Boucher, user experience librarian, served as conference proposal reviewer for EDUCAUSE during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Kris Toma, university archivist and records manager, served as instructor of record for a graduate history course in Public History program at Texas State University during the 2021 spring semester.

Sheila Torres-Blank, database and metadata management librarian, served on the HathiTrust Community Metadata Strategy Task Force during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Margaret Vaverek, research, instruction and outreach librarian, served as a member of the HathiTrust Copyright Review team for Crown Copyright materials during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Margaret Vaverek, research, instruction and outreach librarian, served as a consultant, commentator, and judged papers submitted for the Phi Alpha Theta History Conference during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Stephanie Towery, copyright officer, served as instructor of record for a Legal Information Resources course in the Graduate School of Information at the University of Texas during the 2020 fall semester.

Mary Aycock, database and metadata management librarian, served on the technical support team and volunteered at the LD4 Conference on Linked Data in Libraries in July 2020.

Amanda Price, monograph acquisitions librarian, served on the Swank Digital Campus Advisory Committee comprised of librarians and library workers charged with usability issues and educational and library needs during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Ginger Williams, head acquisitions librarian, served as a College & Research Libraries peer reviewer for two papers during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Ginger Williams, head acquisitions librarian, served as peer reviewer for posters submitted for the American Library Association Annual Conference in spring 2021.

Academic and professional leadership and service (continued)

Dr. Nathaniel Dede-Bamfo, GIS services specialist, served as instructor of record for a Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems course at Texas State University during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Lauren Goodley, archivist, was appointed to serve on the Texas Digital Libraries awards committee during the 2020-2021 academic year. Goodley led meetings to encourage and ensure nominations, judge nominations, contacted awardees, and presented awards at the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries annual conference awards ceremony.

Lauren Goodley, archivist, served on the Excellence Awards Committee for the National Digital Stewardship Alliance during the 2020-2021 academic year. Goodley attended meetings to encourage, ensure, judge nominations, and presented two awards at the NSDA annual meeting and awards ceremony.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, was appointed to serve on 'The Dataverse Projects' Dataverse Community Planning Committee during the 2020-2021 academic year. Waugh attended meetings to plan session topics, logistics, and speakers for the annual meeting and served as note taker and backup Zoom host for sessions.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, attended ORCID US Community Interest Group quarterly meetings to discuss new initiatives and strategies for outreach and potential integrations. Waugh also participated in the Board of Directors election as voting member representative.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, served on the College and University Libraries Division Nominating Committee for the Texas Library Association during the 2020-2021 academic year. Waugh participated in meetings and outreach efforts to select new officers and presented candidate information at the Executive Committee meeting prior to opening voting.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, served on the Texas Data Repository Steering Committee for the Texas Digital Library during the 2020-2021 academic year. Waugh also worked with the Larger Data Storage Committee, project team, Texas Data Repository Assessment Working Group, Journal Systems User Group, and the Texas Archivemata Steering Committee. **Erin Mazzei**, digital media specialist, co-led the Texas Digital Library Imaging Group, scheduled meetings, worked on group documentation, and event preparation during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Jessica McClean, research, instruction and outreach librarian, co-chaired the Science & Technology Research Committee for the Association of College & Research Libraries during the 2020-2021 academic year. McClean planned and hosted three online research forums for science and technology librarians.

Steve Davis, curator, was elected to one of four living Fellows of the Texas Institute of Letters during the 2020-2021 academic year. Davis attended council meetings, nominated, voted on new members, and provided advice and counsel for the nonprofit honor society established to recognize excellence in writing.

Tricia Boucher, user experience librarian, was appointed to the Games and Learning Community Group Steering Committee for the EDUCAUSE annual conference. Boucher participated in meetings, helped moderate a webinar and discussion group and presented at the EDUCAUSE annual conference during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Tricia Boucher, user experience librarian, was elected to the Executive Board of the Games and Gaming Roundtable Committee for the American Library Association during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Dr. Ray Uzwyshyn, director of collections and digital services, was elected to serve on the Information Technology Standing Committee for the International Federation of Library Associations during the 2020-2021 academic year. In this role, Uzwyshyn planned conferences and advised on IT and libraries.

Dr. Ray Uzwyshyn, director of collections and digital services, participated in the Roundtable for Developing a Toolkit for National Open Science Practices at the US National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine during the 2020-2021 academic year. Uzwyshyn attended workshops and made recommendations for toolkit submission statements.

Dr. Ray Uzwyshyn, director of collections and digital services, was appointed to the EDUCAUSE Education Annual Proposal Review Committee during the 2020-2021 academic year. In this role, Uzwyshyn reviewed conference presentations, panels, and posters.

Dr. Ray Uzwyshyn, director of collections and digital services, was appointed to serve as an International Conference on Education and Information Technology (Oxford) session chair. In this role, Uzwyshyn moderated panels and conference presentations during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Dr. Ray Uzwyshyn, director of collections and digital services, was appointed to review presentations, posters and panels for the Open Repositories Annual Conference during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Tara Spies Smith, research, instruction and outreach librarian, was appointed co-editor and served as peer review for the art documentation and listserv moderator for the Art Libraries Society of Northern America Texas/New Mexico chapter meeting.

Jess Williams, administrative librarian, served in roles such as project manager, peer reviewer, programming committee member, and core leadership team for the Library Collective Conference during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Jess Williams, administrative librarian, coordinated communities of practice, including asynchronous and synchronous meetings and collaboration for the League of Awesome Libraries during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Lisa Cruces, undergraduate instruction and outreach librarian, was appointed to serve on Association of Research Libraries' Kaleidoscope Program Task Force, which advises the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee to ensure that content and diversity scholars' experience meet the program objectives.

Lisa Ancelet, research, instruction, and outreach librarian, was appointed to serve on the Sustainability Round Table for the Association of Research Libraries during the 2020-2021 academic year. Ancelet helped plan and implement more sustainable conference practices.

Dianna Morganti, research, instruction, and outreach librarian, was elected Treasurer on the Executive Board of Directors for the Texas Library Association for the 2020-2021 academic year. Morganti served as the members' representative in the financial matters of the association and regularly updated the membership on the financial standing of the association.

Dianna Morganti, research, instruction, and outreach librarian, was appointed to serve as co-facilitator of the Carpentries Membership Pilot for Texas Digital Libraries during the 2020-2021 academic year. Morganti proposed and launched a membership pilot for Texas Digital Libraries in the global Carpentries organization.

Dr. Nathaniel Dede-Bamfo, GIS services specialist, was appointed to serve as a member of the planning committee of the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries during the 2020-2021 academic year. Dede-Bamfo assisted with the planning and organization of the 2021 Virtual Conference.

Dr. Nathaniel Dede-Bamfo, GIS services specialist, was appointed to serve as a member of the GIS Interest Group for the Texas Digital Library during the 2020-2021 academic year. Dede-Bamfo planned, organized, and conducted workshops for members across Texas and beyond.

Ginger Williams, head acquisitions librarian, was elected as co-chair of the Collections Committee for the Greater Western Library Alliance during the 2020-2021 academic year. Williams assisted the chair and staff organize committee activities, development of a negotiation team and an online conference.

Jennifer Johnson, user services consultant II, was selected to serve as a Journal for Technical Communication peer reviewer for 2021-2022.

Jennifer Johnson, user services consultant II, is a member of the Autism Society of Texas.

Jennifer Johnson, user services consultant II, is a member of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network.

Whitten Smart, special assistant to the vice president, served on multiple product advisory boards for Watermark during 2020 and 2021.

Staff excellence: Outreach

Kenneth Pierce, vice president for information technology and CIO, attended the virtual EDUCAUSE Annual Conference in October 2020. The conference calls together the best thinking in higher education IT to become even better at what they do. Professionals and technology providers from around the world gather at the conference to network, share ideas, grow professionally, and discover solutions to today's challenges.

Kenneth Pierce, vice president for information technology and CIO, attended the virtual Gartner IT Symposium/Xpo 2020, in October. The conference explored the most critical trends impacting IT and how to use technology to respond to adversity and achieve business continuity.

Kenneth Pierce, vice president for information technology and CIO, attended the virtual Gartner CIO Leadership Forum in May 2021. CIOs join Gartner experts to share valuable insights on crafting new digital business ecosystems that ensure superior customer experiences, leading the modern IT organization, and more.

Kenneth Pierce, vice president for information technology and CIO, attended the virtual Texas Association of State Systems for Computing and Communications (TASSCC) annual conference in August 2020. TASSCC provides its members with programs, conferences, and summits as ways to connect IT professionals in state agencies and higher education to leverage best practices, innovative technology solutions and creative approaches to meet technological needs.

Outreach (continued)

Kenneth Pierce, vice president for information technology and CIO, attend the virtual Texas Association of State Systems for Computing and Communications (TASSCC) State of the State conference in December 2020. The TASSCC State of the State conference is a one-day event that brings together directors from Texas state agencies and institutions of higher education to discuss the strategic direction of technology in Texas.

Kenneth Pierce, vice president for information technology and CIO, attended the virtual Texas Association of State Systems for Computing and Communications (TASSCC) Technology Education Conference (TEC) in March 2021. TASSCC TEC is a one-day event where technology professionals from Texas state agencies and institutions of higher education gather to review specific topics of interest and drill down for an in-depth look at challenges and opportunities on relevant issues.

Lauren Goodley, archivist for The Wittliff Collections; **Nicole Critchley**, librarian; **Laura Kennedy**, librarian; **Jason Long**, programmer analyst I; **Todd Peters**, administrative librarian; and **Laura Waugh**, digital collections librarian, attended the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries, May 2021. The group presented “Digital Preservation Steps with Archivematica: A Cross-Departmental Approach.” This presentation told the tale about the process deciding on Archivematica through installation and implementation.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, presented “Accessibility of ETDs: Raising the Bar” at the Texas Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association as part of the April 2021 webinar series. The presentation described the status of accessibility in institutional repositories (based on a 2020 survey), about gaps in accessibility for ETDs, and shared templates and workflow ideas for improving ETD accessibility.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, **Todd Peters**, administrative librarian; **Erin Mazzei**, digital media specialist; and **Jason Long**, programmer analyst I, attended and presented at the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries in May 2021. The “Providing Broader Access: Texas State retrospective ETD Digitization Project” provided information on the modification in the DSpace repository, workflows, and processes for a project to digitize and make available theses and dissertations submitted prior to 2014.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, attended and served as a panel member during the “A Consortium Approach to Library Publishing Via the Open Journal System and the Texas Digital Library” session at the Library Publishing Forum in May 2021. This talk focused on the function of the user group, as well as the costs and outcomes associated with a consortium approach to library publishing through the OJS system.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, attended the Texas Library Association annual conference in April 2021. Laura served as a panelist on “The Evolution of Open Access” presentation, which reviewed evolution and changes in open access, emerging trends, and potential considerations moving forward.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, gave a presentation at the Southern Mississippi Institutional Repository Conference in April 2021. The “Exploring Accessibility Practices in Institutional Repositories” provided an overview of findings from a 2019 study conducted by a team of librarians from six universities on accessibility efforts for digital content in institutional repositories.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian; **Jessica McClean**, research, instruction and outreach librarian; **Dianna Morganti**, research, instruction and outreach librarian; **Stephanie Towery**, copyright officer; and **Amanda Price**, monograph acquisitions librarian, attended and presented at the Open Texas Conference in March 2021. The group’s presentation, “Community Building: Using Peer Review to Engage Librarians and Faculty in the Design of an OER Community of Learning” provided an overview of the approach by members of the Texas State University Libraries’ Scholarly Communications Committee to design and incorporate peer review in the development of an Open Educational Resources Community of Learning program.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian; **Jessica McClean**, research, instruction and outreach librarian; **Dianna Morganti**, research, instruction and outreach librarian; **Stephanie Towery**, copyright officer; and **Amanda Price**, monograph acquisitions librarian, attended and presented at the Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference in March 2021. The group’s presentation, “Community Building: Using Peer Review to Engage Librarians and Faculty in the Design of an OER Community of Learning” provided an overview of the approach by members of the Texas State University Libraries’ Scholarly Communications Committee to design and incorporate peer review in the development of an Open Educational Resources Community of Learning program.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian; **Jodi Brown**, librarian; **Laura Kennedy**, librarian; and **Stephanie Towery**, copyright officer, attended the Charleston Library Conference in November 2020. The group presented “Chronicling COVID: Capturing Expression, Promoting Resources,” which provided a review of the collaborative project to document and archive shared experiences by the Texas State and San Marcos community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nicole Critchley, librarian; and **Mary Aycock**, database and metadata management librarian, presented “Bulk Uploading to Wikidata” during the University of Texas Linked Data Working Group conference in December 2020. The presentation showed documentation Texas State created on uploading bulk data using two different platforms.

Nichole Critchley, librarian; **Mary Aycock**, database and metadata management librarian; and **Amanda Scott**, library assistant IV; presented “Gateway into Linked Data: Breaking Silos with Wikidata” at the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries in May 2021. The presentation provided an in-depth overview of Wikidata and the successes and challenges of the projects.

Erin Mazzei, digital media specialist, presented “Session 1C: TDL Imaging Group Birds-of-a-Feather” during the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries in May 2021. Attendees of this birds-of-a-feather meeting discussed amongst peers their imaging specific issues and triumphs, including, but not limited to, how the field has coped and adapted during the pandemic.

Erin Mazzei, digital media specialist, presented “How it’s Going: Creating and Modifying Camera Capture Stations at Texas State University” at the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries in May 2021. Her presentation covered the on-going development of stations, an overview of the benefits and risks of implementing a custom camera station, and lessons learned.

Erin Mazzei, digital media specialist, presented “TDL Imaging Group: Virtual Lab Tour of Texas State University” at the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries in April 2021. The facilities are part of the Digital and Web Services department at the Alkek Library. The informal tour provided an overview of the physical space and equipment used for still image capture as well as other topics related to the lab.

Steven L. Davis, curator, presented “The Essential J. Frank Dobie” during an author presentation for the Texas State Historical Association in March 2021. The presentation provided an overview of the life, work, and enduring influences of Texas writer J. Frank Dobie.

Steven L. Davis, curator, attended the 9th annual San Antonio Book Festival in April 2021. He also moderated a panelist discussion of Bud Shrake’s book, “Hollywood Mad Dogs” at the “Tales of Hollywood Madness: A Lost Manuscript from a Texas Literary Legend” session, during the event.

Steven L. Davis, curator, attended “Author S.C. Gwynne in conversation” at the Boerne Book and Arts Festival in October 2020. Davis also moderated the conversation with author S.C. Gwynne on his book, “Battle Hymns of the Republic.”

Steven L. Davis, curator, participated in “The Wittliff Collections and J. Frank Dobie” discussion about Dobie’s comeback in recent years at the Dobie Dichos conference in November 2020. At this event, Texas writers/authors and storytellers read from, discuss, debate and/or tell stories from Dobie’s works.

Steven L. Davis, curator, presented “Texas Literary Outlaws” during a Life and Literature of the Southwest course at the University of Texas in February 2021. Davis discussed Texas literature in the 1960s.

Tricia Boucher, user experience librarian, presented “From Start-up to Scale-Up: Building a Student-Centric Technology Ecosystem” during a breakout session at the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference in October 2020. The session provided participants an insider view into how staff at Texas State created Alkek One.

Tricia Boucher, user experience librarian, presented “Games and Learning Roundtable Discussion” during a breakout session at the Educause Annual Conference in October 2020. The session provided first-hand experience using learning games as learning tools, how to get started, and what worked/what didn’t work.

Dr. Ray Uzwysyn, director of collections and digital services, presented “Open-Source Digital Ecosystems for Accelerating Global Research, Innovation and Collaboration” during a Lightning talk at the Joint Roadmap for Open Science Tools conference in December 2020. The presentation discussed the robust open-source digital ecosystem to support research and collaboration from open source, global development and research perspectives.

Dr. Ray Uzwysyn, director of collections and digital services, presented “Digital Research Ecosystems for Open Spaces” during a Lightning talk at AI for Data Discovery, Reuse & Open Science Symposium in October 2020. He presented virtually on the digital research ecosystem from open science and STEM perspectives.

Dr. Ray Uzwysyn, director of collections and digital services, presented “Digital Scholarship Ecosystems” at the Connect 2020: Computers in Libraries and Internet Librarian Joint Conference in September 2020. The presentation was on digital scholarship ecosystems from general library perspectives and provided an overview of methods of connecting scholars and students with research, raising online research access and retrieval possibilities, synergies among digital systems and how libraries can enable new creative possibilities for research online.

Jess Williams, administrative librarian, presented “The Library Connection 2021: Short Story Club” at The Connection: A Library Collective Conference in March 2021. The Library Connection virtual conference featured live and asynchronous sessions. This was a monthlong guided discussion of curated thematic short stories. Session creators provided discussion prompts, moderated weekly asynchronous discussions, and hosted a live virtual discussion.

Carla Ellard, curator, presented “Tour of The Wittliff Collections: Recent Renovations & Expansion” at the Art Libraries Society of North America Texas-Mexico chapter meeting in November 2020. Ellard provided a tour of the recent renovations and gallery expansion at The Wittliff and Buck Winn mural installation on the 2nd floor of the Albert B. Alkek Library.

Outreach (continued)

Dr. Khoi Nguyen, emerging technology supervisor, presented the Keynote speech, “Interactive Arts in the Age of Activism,” at the Tennessee State University’s Center Stage Event in August 2021. Nguyen shared about his art installation of President Obama and Harvey Milk, which includes the largest collection of fingerprints from civil rights activists forming the image of Obama and Milk.

Stephanie Towery, copyright officer, presented “Context, not checklists! Workshopping a collaborative, context-driven approach to evaluating journals” at the Library Publishing Forum Conference in May 2021. A group of librarians banded together to try to address concerns about predatory or questionable journals. The heart of the session was facilitated conversation using Mentimeter to gather and discuss recommendations, critiques, and other feedback from participants.

Jessica McClean, research, instruction and outreach librarian, presented “OER Community of Learning: Lessons Learned & Future Considerations” at the Greater Western Library Alliance Dean Forum on July 19, 2021. McClean’s presentation gave an overview of the library’s OER Community of Learning project.

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian; **Jessica McClean**, research, instruction and outreach librarian; **Dianna Morganti**, research, instruction and outreach librarian; **Stephanie Towery**, copyright officer; and **Amanda Price**, monograph acquisitions librarian, presented “Community Building: Using peer review to engage librarians and faculty in the design of an OER Community of Learning” at the Electronic Resources and Libraries Conference in March 2021. The presentation gave an overview of the approach by members of the Texas State University Libraries’ Scholarly Communications Committee to design and incorporate peer review in the development of an Open Educational Resources (OER) Community of Learning program.

Amanda Price, monograph acquisitions librarian, presented “Spinning Plates: Managing Multiple Ebook Access Models” at the Texas Library Association Conference in April 2021. The panel presented and discussed ebook management and acquisition issues.

Dr. Nathaniel Dede-Bamfo, GIS services specialist, presented “Spatial Analysis of Food Inspection Scores in Austin, TX – 2016-19” at the Texas State University Health Scholar Showcase in April 2021. This research examined the spatial distribution and patterns of food establishment inspection scores in Austin, Texas between 2016 and 2019. Using GIS techniques such as Geocoding and hot spot analysis determined where restaurants with low health inspection scores tended to cluster.

Scott Pope, continuing resources librarian; and **Ginger Williams**, head acquisitions librarian, presented “You Can’t Just Take a Vote: Collaborating and Communicating to Make Serial Budget Cuts During a Pandemic” at the Electronic Resources and Libraries Conference in March 2021. The presentation discussed tools and strategies for developing tiered subscription lists early in the pandemic, in preparation for rapid decisions about renewals and cancellations during a period of great budget uncertainty.

Jess Williams, administrative librarian, served as a moderator for the “Online Learning Librarians: Findings from a National Study” presentation at the Distance Library Services Conference in November 2020.

Jennifer Johnson, user services consultant II, presented “Making Digital Room for the Neurodivergent in Classes” at the Texas State University TEDx event in February 2021.

Atkins Fleming, assistant director for learning spaces, was a featured speaker on the Higher Ed AV Podcast in July 2021. The podcast is dedicated to building the AV/IT tech manager community in higher education through discussions on classroom technology and audiovisual support. The episode focused on how evaluating services from the user’s point of view can and should inform AV decisions.

Staff excellence:

Degrees and certifications

Debbie Bilbrey, administrative assistant III, received a master of arts in Applied Sociology from Texas State University in August 2021.

Kristy Patteson, buyer III, received her Certified Texas Contract Manager certification from the Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts in September 2020.

Debbie Pitts, marketing and promotions coordinator, received a master of arts in Mass Communication from Texas State University in May 2021.

Matt Stone, programmer analyst II, received his post graduate program certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning from the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business in April 2021.

Chad Willis, user services consultant II, received a bachelor of applied arts and sciences from Texas State University in May 2021.

Staff excellence: Publications

Laura Waugh, digital collections librarian, co-authored “Accessibility in Institutional Repositories” survey. This study is intended to establish a baseline measurement of current accessibility practices in hopes that studies such as this will help inform the wider community of the challenges and obstacles faced by institutional repository managers and staff in ensuring accessibility to content.

Steve Davis, curator, provided the introduction for the Texas A&M University Press’ web page to purchase the book “Hollywood Mad Dogs” by Edwin ‘Bud’ Shrake in 2020.

Dr. Ray Uzwyshyn, director of collections and digital services, wrote a “Developing an Open-Source Digital Scholarship Ecosystem” article for the proceedings of the February 2020 9th International Conference on Educational and Information Technology. This research presented elements necessary to develop a Digital Scholarship Research Ecosystem for a university, college or research institution.

Dr. Ray Uzwyshyn, director of collections and digital services, wrote the featured article, “Open Digital Research Ecosystems: How to Build Them and Why,” which was published in the November 2020 edition of Computers in Libraries Magazine.

Dr. Nathaniel Dede-Bamfo, GIS services specialist, co-authored the journal article, “Bacterial characterization and quantification of rainwater harvested in a rural community in Nigeria,” which was published in the Environmental Nanotechnology, Monitoring & Management journal, December 2020. This study investigated the bacteriological quality of rainwater harvested from storage facilities located in Ekpoma, a rural community in South-South Nigeria, and the possible health implications resulting from its intermittent or incessant consumption.

Staff excellence: Awards

Jessica McClean, research, instruction, and outreach librarian, was recognized as Texas State University Employee of the Month in December 2020.

Several **Division of Information Technology staff members** were part of the SACSCOC Technical Support team as recipients of the May 2021 Quarterly Team Award. The award was for transitioning the SACSCOC conference into an online setting, coordinating with staff, faculty, and over 100 students to develop, test, and execute a virtual conference with over 24 breakout sessions.

IT Division staff who took part:

- **Jen Aguirre**, business process analyst
- **Jeff Snider**, senior programmer analyst
- **Lisa Apostolo**, user services consultant II
- **Joseph Fuller**, senior user service consultant
- **Kevin Huffaker**, director, learning technology research
- **Eli Soto**, assistant director, IT Assistance Center
- **Andrea Alvarado**, user services consultant II
- **Michael Baker**, user services consultant II
- **Marina Walton**, technology integration specialist I
- **Chad Willis**, user services consultant II
- **Patrick Ryan**, user services consultant II
- **Curtis Crow**, systems support analyst
- **Whitten Smart**, special assistant to the vice president

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