Detail from the cover of a 1975 DC Comic, written by Denny O'Neil with art by E. R. Cruz and a cover by Walt Simonson. *Sherlock Holmes #1* is part of a donation of Sherlock Holmes related memorabilia. See more on page 8.
FROM THE DEAN

Stanley Wilder
Dean, LSU Libraries

In December, we will mark the retirement of Stephanie Braunstein, our ace government documents librarian and the driving force behind the Libraries’ national award this year (see: Libraries of the Year). Stephanie and her staff have battled hurricanes, technology shifts, and budget constraints, all the while setting a national standard through their service to the citizens of Louisiana. They do this in a highly visible way by providing access to Louisiana’s government document collection of record, but also in their less visible role, coordinating and supporting document collections and services in partner libraries across the state. This is exactly what one would expect of a flagship library like LSU.

Celebrating Stephanie’s lifetime achievement is important, but in fact, there is a similar story of intelligence, creativity, and passion behind every one of the topics addressed in this Impact Report, and often more than one. Our accomplishments are the natural consequence of the extraordinary people who work here.

The LSU Libraries has the most talented, creative, and committed staff I have ever worked with. Between their brilliant ideas and their willingness to work hard to put them into practice, they leave me with the wonderful role of simply supporting their efforts. This impact report is the embodiment of their sense of shared stewardship, with service today tied inextricably to their obligation to future generations. Transitions like Stephanie’s impending retirement are an apt metaphor, and it is an honor to serve among such people.
LSU LIBRARIES RANK 15TH IN U.S.

LSU is the 15th most productive U.S. university library for subject specialist publications, according to a study conducted by Amy Hardin and Tony Stankus, titled “The 2016 Rankings: The Top 25 U.S. Universities Publishing Articles that Advanced Subject Specialized Librarianship 2011-2015.” The study ranks universities by the number of papers published by subject specialist librarians over the previous 5 years in a standardized selection of 14 library journals from their respective fields. The libraries were recognized during the June 2016 annual Special Libraries Association (SLA) convention.
BEST HISTORICAL MATERIALS

LSU Libraries received national recognition at the annual Book & Media Awards Ceremony during the January 2016 midwinter meeting of the American Library Association (ALA). “Free People of Color in Louisiana: Revealing an Unknown Past,” a collaborative digital project led by LSU Libraries, was one of only four resources nationwide to make the annual list of Best Historical Materials, announced by the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA). Each year, the Committee compiles and publishes its “Best Historical Materials” in Reference and User Services Quarterly (RUSQ), RUSA’s research journal.

LIBRARIES OF THE YEAR

LSU Libraries and Louisiana Tech University’s Prescott Memorial Library were honored by the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) as 2015 Libraries of the Year. The two libraries worked with Southern University, New Orleans to reopen its library almost a decade after Hurricane Katrina. Libraries of the Year are regional Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) libraries recognized for demonstrating leadership, innovation, and commitment to providing free public access to federal government information.
LSU librarians have developed a platform enabling faculty members to identify e-books to assign at no cost to students. “In conversations across campus, professors shared how they don’t want to assign textbooks that place a financial burden on students, but that they weren’t sure how to identify alternatives,” explained Emily Frank, a librarian contributing to the effort. The titles identified through this search are already in the Libraries’ collection or will be purchased upon faculty request. Once purchased, they are freely available to LSU students for reading and downloading.

The online catalog for LSU Libraries has been upgraded with a move to new servers in the cloud. The migration offers many advantages: Greek symbols and diacritics are supported, as well as diverse languages, such as Chinese, Hebrew, Cyrillic, and Arabic. The catalog is also faster, which means faster searches and quicker online renewals, and the system is more secure, with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) security certification and standards. Disaster recovery is even more robust than before, which is important in hurricane-prone areas such as south Louisiana.
DIGITAL REPOSITORY

LSU Libraries and the Office of Research & Economic Development have collaborated on the establishment of an institutional repository through bepress Digital Commons (DC). With LSU Digital Commons, LSU faculty can deposit research and scholarship on a platform that is accessible worldwide. LSU Digital Commons supports a variety of intellectual output, including pre-prints, working papers, journal articles, presentations, creative works, media files (both audio and video), and other representations of scholarly work. In addition, the platform enables journal publishing, electronic thesis and dissertation review and deposit, and conference site hosting.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS REQUEST SYSTEM

Special Collections went live with a management software system called Aeon. This system allows staff to manage collections and requests more efficiently and enables patrons to place reading room requests from the online catalog. The LSU Libraries system is called SCRS (pronounced “Seekers”), which is short for “Special Collections Request System.” The system will eliminate paperwork, and save researchers time by enabling them to place reading room requests online.
NEW LOCATION FOR ACCESS SERVICES

Middleton Library’s Access Services unit, which includes the Circulation Department, InterLibrary Loan Department, and Reserves, has moved to room 241 on the second floor of Middleton Library. Books can be borrowed at this new location or by using the self-serve station on the first floor. The book return on the first floor remains functional, and books may be returned on either the first floor or at the new desk. The move frees up first floor space for exciting student-centered area planned for the future.
In December 2015, LSU Libraries opened the Graduate Reading Room on the second floor of Middleton Library. The Graduate Student Association requested a defined, main-campus space specifically for graduate students to interact, build community, collaborate, and study. The 3000 foot Graduate Reading Room is already a popular study spot, even without necessary renovations. The room is in need of new floors, furniture, lighting, and technology.

The vision is a contemporary, beautiful space that will serve a variety of functions including independent and collaborative study spaces, rooms for meetings and presentations, and community areas. The space will give students opportunities to refine their professional skills while learning and discovering outside the classroom.

MATH LAB

Students in Math 1021, 1022, and 1023 are now able to do their required lab hours in rooms 300X and 300Y Middleton Library, in the newly-opened Math Lab on the third floor. Formerly located in Pleasant Hall, the Math Lab’s new library location makes it more centrally located and available to the more than 5000 students who take the three respective math courses each year.

GRADUATE READING ROOM

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The vision is a contemporary, beautiful space that will serve a variety of functions including independent and collaborative study spaces, rooms for meetings and presentations, and community areas. The space will give students opportunities to refine their professional skills while learning and discovering outside the classroom.
A large selection of Sherlock Holmes fiction, scholarship, and memorabilia was recently donated to the LSU Libraries’ Special Collections by Russell Mann, a retired professor of journalism at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Especially strong in “non-canonical” fiction (Holmes stories written by authors other than Arthur Conan Doyle), the collection contains comic books and graphic novels featuring Holmes, and rare scholarly publications, including journals of Holmes societies from around the world. The collection joins the ranks of about a dozen major Holmes collections in the United States and is one of the largest in the South.
COMICS SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBIT

In September 2015, LSU Libraries hosted the “New Faces under Old Masks: Race, Gender, and the Future of Superheroes” symposium. Three distinguished figures from the world of comics and comics scholarship brought unique insights to bear on intriguing and complex questions surrounding the evolving treatment of race and gender in superhero comics and film. The event in Hill Memorial Library accompanied the library’s exhibit, “Graphic Sensibility: Selected Comics and Illustrations from DC to Durer” co-curated by Brannon Costello, Associate Professor in the LSU Department of English, and Jenny Mitchell, Head of Manuscripts Processing at Hill Memorial Library.

JAPANESE ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

Special Collections has begun to build a small collection of Japanese illustrated books to provide primary research material for studying the history of books, printing, printmaking, and illustration, and to support Asian art surveys and comparative historical studies.

Twelve books have been acquired so far, from as early as 1803 to as recent as 1901. The illustrated books depict subjects such as military history, Kabuki theater, botanical and ornithological illustrations, and more.

Illustration from Ehon Taka Kagami (1866-80), a five-volume woodblock-illustrated book on falconry.
DEAN’S ADVISORY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS TO SUPPORT LSU LIBRARIES

Seventeen Baton Rouge community leaders have been chosen to voluntarily serve on an LSU Libraries Dean’s Advisory Council (DAC). The council will advise on, assist with, and support the Dean’s efforts to promote the recognition, welfare, and progress of the Libraries. Ty Hingle, a 1998 LSU graduate and local business owner, serves as the council’s first chair.

As the cornerstone of education for the university, the LSU Libraries needs to offer students and the community an exceptional place to cultivate ideas and promote higher level learning. Additionally, the LSU Libraries should serve as a centerpiece the university uses to recruit new students, top researchers and premier instructors. I am encouraged about the future of the LSU Libraries as it evolves into a world class global learning center driven by Dean Wilder’s vision. We have assembled a powerful and diverse Advisory Council and are excited about the support we have already received from the University President, Provost and the LSU Foundation.”

Ty Hingle
Chair

Members of the DAC represent a unique blend of business and community leaders from a variety of organizations and backgrounds, culminating in a group with a great enthusiasm for LSU Libraries and a devotion to its mission.
DEAN’S ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Stephanie Anderson, CPA  
Executive VP & COO, Woman’s Hospital

Reid B. Bateman  
Attorney

R. Brian Haymon  
CEO, SGS Petroleum Service Corporation

Melanie Hebert  
Entrepreneur, Motivational Speaker, Business Consultant

Emilie Hebert  
Miss LSU 2016  
Student Representative for Board

Ty B. Hingle – Chair  
Owner, Mattress Direct

Leo B. Honeycutt  
Author

Natalie Laborde  
Assistant Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Jared S. Loftus  
COO, MasteryPrep

Layne R. McDaniel  
President & CEO, Credit Bureau Foundation of Baton Rouge

W. Shelby McKenzie  
Attorney, Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips – Retired Counsel - LSU

Dianna Payton  
CEO, YWCA of Greater Baton Rouge

Christy O. Reeves  
CEO, Single Stop USA

Susan D. Rolfs  
Community Philanthropist

Christel C. Slaughter, PhD  
Partner and Co-owner, SSA Consultants

Collis B. Temple III  
National Sales Director & Agency Owner, Primerica Insurance

LSU Libraries’ Faculty/Staff

Ken Bordelon  
BASF
Therapy dogs visited Middleton Library, one of several stress-relieving activities in the library during finals week.

“Club Mid has been the wave so far this week.... Get with it or get lost”

LSU Student

“There is no place like home #clubmid”

LSU Student

“Best part of today: walked into Middleton and there were dogs in the lobby! Legit squealed @lsulibraries #clubmid #LSU Finals”

LSU Student
Today I touched a book that is older than the United States of America; it was published in 1632. Words cannot express my elation.
#englishmajor
#shakespeare

Today I checked a YUGE “must do before I die” thing off my list. I’ve been dreaming of this day since I was a little kid. I stood next to all 4 volumes of work by John James Audubon. I spent the first half hour crying and trying not to get them wet. So moving. This was one of the best days of my life.

Woke up bright and early to look through old Reveille issues for a story. I think this might be the prettiest room on campus. #LSU