Impact Report
FY 2017-2018
Access to Excellence
Contents

4-10 RESOURCES AND SERVICES
Library instruction, open house, online and print collections, open-access, and digital resources are a few of the diverse resources and services provided by the LSU Libraries.

11-23 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
LSU Libraries Special Collections awarded research grants to visiting scholars, curated exhibits of its unique material, hosted Donna Brazile, and added papers and publications to its collections.

21-27 DEVELOPMENT
Generosity from the Libraries’ many supporters enables the LSU Libraries to award scholarships, purchase digital resources and other collections, and plan for the digitization of The Daily Reveille.

29-33 ABOUT US
LSU Libraries faculty and staff advance the mission of the University through their work, which is recognized through awards and publications.
From the Dean

Documented in this year’s Impact Report is a truly dazzling array of contributions to the University’s academic mission: new collections, modern, innovative services, thrilling fundraising results, and talented new staff. Taken as a whole, the LSU Libraries portrayed in these pages is a case study in what sets LSU apart as an institution. The great power of LSU lies in the singular value proposition it offers prospective students and faculty. Simply put, the Libraries gives its community the tools and experiences that they cannot have anywhere else, all carefully designed to make those who use them as successful as they can possibly be.

All of this was accomplished despite LSU’s chronic financial constraints, which present its faculty and staff with daily reminders of the gap between what’s possible today and the LSU that could be, were there to be even modest new investments. We are fortunate that these same faculty and staff are nonetheless committed to using the available resources to make LSU as good as it can possibly be. This report is a page-by-page description of how this conviction translates to action at the LSU Libraries.

It is an honor to serve such people, as it is to work alongside them. We are proud of the contributions documented in these pages. We aspire to be the great library LSU needs to fulfill its immense potential to serve the citizens of Louisiana, and the world beyond.

Stanley Wilder, Dean of LSU Libraries
Library Instruction

Research Consultations

Librarians meet regularly with students and faculty to discuss the research process, identifying and locating information sources, using information sources ethically, and strategizing pathways to publishing. With information specialist librarians serving as expert coaches and guides, research consultations support student academic success and faculty research efforts.

Faculty Training and Development

In the past year, librarians have included a new outreach focus to their portfolio of services: faculty training and development. In collaboration with LSU Communication across the Curriculum, librarians have promoted the teaching and learning services offered by the Libraries. Librarians have also worked with the Undergraduate Writing program and Dual Enrollment instructors to integrate information literacy into composition classes.

Research Guides

Specialized web pages created by librarians serve as quick access points to research resources. In the past year, LSU Libraries’ research guides were viewed more than 200,000 times. The most popular guides include the Martin Luther King, Jr. guide; the rare books guide; and the guides about the Gumbo yearbook, and Louisiana newspapers. In addition to research guides, how-to web pages and tutorials on the use of library resources teach information literacy concepts to students at their points of need, 24/7.
Open House

The annual LSU Libraries Open House brings in hundreds of students each October. Staff and students are invited to come in costume and learn about the Libraries while earning chances to win prizes and have fun. This year, Mike the Tiger attended and spent some time learning about oral histories at the table set up by the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History.

Besides hosting an Open House, LSU Libraries participates in dozens of events throughout the year to reach out to students.
Collections Trends

LSU Libraries FY 2010-2017, Print Circulation versus Ebook Chapter Downloads

During FY18, e-book collections, especially in the sciences, received heavy use by the LSU community. E-book downloads do not directly compare with print book circulation numbers, yet by combining numbers for both e-book downloads and print circulation, the graph shows how LSU Libraries is meeting the changing needs of the LSU community.

LSU Libraries Ongoing Purchases

LSU Libraries subscribes to thousands of journals. Ongoing resource expenditures pay for these journals and databases, and are the majority of library materials expenditures. Ongoing purchases include serials and databases, and exclude one-time purchases such as books and e-books. In FY 2018 were $1.4 million, in comparison with $7 million for ongoing resources. Ongoing resources show steady cost increases.
Evidence-Based Acquisitions

LSU Libraries is using evidence-based acquisition (EBA) to acquire e-books based on how often titles are used. Evidence-based acquisition allows libraries to pay an upfront access fee that is less than the full cost of a collection of titles and purchase titles based on how often they are viewed by users. The upfront fee goes toward the purchase cost for the titles chosen. Through its LOUIS membership, LSU Libraries has more than 40,000 titles from evidence-based acquisition platforms in its online catalog. Of those titles, 1,109 are from Project Muse, more than 33,000 are from JSTOR, and 6,200 are from Oxford University Press. Titles remain in the catalog for twelve months before evidence-based acquisitions are made.

Funding to Publish in Open Access Journals

LSU Libraries is piloting an Open Access (OA) Author Fund for LSU researchers to publish their work in fully open access journals that require author fees. A total of $30,000 was available throughout the 2018 calendar year.

Yaping Xu, an LSU graduate student in the Department of Geography and Anthropology and the first awardee of the Open Access Author Fund, received funding for his article “Standardized Soil Moisture Index for Drought Monitoring Based on Soil Moisture Active Passive Observations and 36 Years of North American Land Data Assimilation System Data: A Case Study in the Southeast United States” in Remote Sensing, an academic journal of Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI). “This is an open access journal which has a very good reputation in my field,” shared Xu, “however, I don’t have funding for the publication. I submitted the application to the Open Access Fund, and luckily got the fund.”

A Legacy of Reading: In Memory of Lisi Oliver

In the summer of 2015, LSU Libraries lost a great friend when an accident took the life of English professor Elizabeth “Lisi” Oliver. Oliver always took an active interest in the library, offering helpful input into the status of the collection, advising librarians about what, in her view, it needed and didn’t need. Oliver’s family understood her attachment to the library, and in tribute to her, the Oliver family has donated Oliver’s entire personal library to LSU Libraries. This is no inconsiderable gift.

Delivered in fifty boxes, Oliver’s library spans a wildly varied gamut of interests. The collection includes the expected scholarly tomes on linguistics and literature. But it also includes works that reflect Oliver’s eclectic interests: works on sports and opera, murder mysteries, cookbooks and books on gardening and art. Many books are in obscure, ancient languages; many are in modern Romance languages and German.

We thank the Oliver family for this generous gift. Many of Oliver’s books will now find a home in the LSU Libraries’ general collection and will serve as a continuing reminder of our friend and colleague.
LSU Libraries is now assigning Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to the journal articles in the LSU Digital Commons as part of its journal publishing services offered to LSU faculty.

Direct Object Identifiers are similar to URLs. They are strings of numbers, letters, and symbols forming persistent links to individual publications such as journal articles, books, chapters, and even preprints, video, audio, and other formats. DOIs are persistent, so if an article’s location on the internet changes, users will be redirected to its new URL. The DOI system is administered by the International DOI Foundation.

DOIs increase the reach and impact of research. They make citations more reliable, which is one way in which they enhance discovery. They are also a prerequisite for inclusion in DOAJ.org, the Directory of Open Access Journals, a resource used by libraries worldwide to provide access to e-journals through their online catalogs.

LSU Libraries recently became a member of the Islandora Foundation, joining institutions such as the American Philosophical Society and the Smithsonian Institution in an effort to support and further the Islandora Project. Islandora is an open source digital library/digital repository platform that is used by libraries, archives, and cultural institutions worldwide to manage and present digital material on the web.

LSU Libraries used Islandora to develop the Louisiana Digital Library (see page 9) on behalf of the Louisiana Digital Consortium, a partnership of Louisiana libraries, museums, archives, and cultural heritage institutions. LSU Libraries developers have been contributing to the Islandora developer community for some time, and while membership is not required to use the software or to contribute to the project, it signals LSU Libraries’ commitment to using the software, now and in the future, and membership provides monetary support to advance its growth and ensure its viability. As a member of the foundation, LSU Libraries will be involved in its governance, receiving a vote in the general meetings, and be allowed participation in the Technical Advisory Group and Project Teams.

The Foundation is currently working to develop the next generation of Islandora software, working with Fedora 4 Repository. This work will allow for better linked data applications and integration. The Islandora Foundation membership adds to the list of other professional groups that LSU Libraries belongs to, such as the Coalition for Networked Information and the National Information Standards Organization.
New Platform for Louisiana Digital Library

The LSU Libraries has implemented a new online platform for the Louisiana Digital Library (LDL) based on the open-source Islandora digital library software. The new platform includes enhanced features, allowing for greater access to and discovery of 171 collections in the LDL. Features include an image viewer with zoom capabilities, full text searching within documents, side-by-side viewing options for audio and text transcriptions, and easy mobile access.

“LSU Libraries is proud to have developed such a beautiful and innovative site that allows the academic and cultural institutions of Louisiana to connect their unique digital collections to users across the world,” said former Technology Initiatives Development & Management Librarian Mike Waugh. “It is only the beginning, as the new platform has the power and flexibility to support many new projects and collections.”

Seventeen institutions currently contribute photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, oral histories, and other material that documents history and culture to the LDL. The LDL is managed by the Louisiana Digital Consortium (LDC), which consists of libraries, museums, archives, historical groups, and other institutions across Louisiana.

LOUISIANADIGITALLIBRARY.ORG
Reflection Space in Middleton Library

Middleton Library now includes a reflection space for students to pray, meditate, or reflect. Through research and input from students, the Diversity Committee of LSU Libraries initiated this project for the southwest corner of the fourth floor.

Elissa Plank, head of circulation at LSU Libraries and member of the Diversity Committee, suggests that the fourth floor was chosen to house this space because of its quiet reputation. Plank emphasized that integrating a designated reflection space into Middleton Library was necessary because students were praying and reflecting there already. Plank mentions how she approached a student praying in the basement of Middleton Library, “I actually gave him my card. He gave it to the president of the Muslim Student Association, who contacted me and gave input on the space.” The Diversity Committee hopes this provides an interfaith space to make students from all religious backgrounds feel welcomed.

Inspiration for the space came from research on different universities with similar areas in their libraries. The committee drew out priorities for the area in Middleton Library, including an inclusive theme, natural light, comfortable seating, and floor space for prayer rugs or yoga mats.

Currently, the reflection area features one bench against each of the two walls with a large walk-in space in between the walls. Each bench includes a cubbyhole to store shoes or personal items. The space is located near large windows with natural light, and has a neutral color scheme.

Safe Spaces in LSU Libraries

As a resource for everyone on campus as well as our surrounding community, the Libraries is committed to being safe, inclusive and welcoming to everyone. Several LSU Libraries staff members from both Middleton Library and Hill Memorial Library are specially trained to provide safe spaces for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Through the LSU Office of Multicultural Affairs’ LGBTQ Project, LSU Libraries staff members have completed Safe Space training to learn how to be better allies to the LGBTQ students on our campus. The goal of the Safe Space Campaign is to identify and educate those who wish to support all individuals regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Staff or faculty members displaying the Safe Space symbol on their offices have gone through training and are committed to combating hatred and discrimination by providing support to any individual seeking assistance.
Gina Costello was named LSU Libraries Associate Dean for Technology and Special Collections. She has served as Associate Dean for Technology Initiatives since May 2015 and was appointed as Interim Associate Dean for Special Collections in May 2017. In her new role, Costello will oversee the strategic direction of the Libraries’ website, application and software development, systems and desktop support, digitization, the digital scholarship lab, University Archives, rare books and manuscripts acquisitions and processing, and Special Collections public services and outreach.

“I am excited about the vision and experience Gina brings to administering these two strategic and deeply interrelated areas of LSU Libraries,” says Dean of Libraries Stanley Wilder. “Gina has already managed to reposition them in ways that make them more innovative and impactful than they have ever been before.”

In 2004, Costello began her career at LSU Libraries as the Digital Services Librarian in Special Collections. She served as Head of Digital Services and Reformatting and administered several large-scale grant projects in Special Collections before becoming associate dean.

Under Costello’s direction during the past three years, the Libraries has built an innovative technology team that has enabled LSU to support and develop the Louisiana Digital Library and to implement technological solutions for many areas of the Libraries. She brings the same energy and enthusiasm to Special Collections, where expanding manuscript and book collecting subject areas to address 21st century issues, fostering donor relations, and investing in facilities are priorities.

“It is my honor to lead Special Collections and Technology Initiatives,” says Costello. “I look forward to working with our talented staff to bring creative solutions to technology issues and to support the preservation of, and access to, the University’s world-renowned special collections.”

Maribel Dietz (History), visiting LSU Libraries Special Collections with students in her course The Early Middle Ages.
Audubon Day


A renowned masterpiece of natural history art, *Birds of America* was published in London from 1827 to 1838, and includes depictions of the rich bird life Audubon saw and drew during his stays in Louisiana in the 1820s. The edition is known as the “elephant” folio because of its large size, with each of its 435 pages measuring 39 by 27 inches. During the Audubon Day event, LSU Libraries Special Collections gives the community the opportunity to view these remarkable volumes. Members of the staff turn pages of the books and share anecdotes and information about Audubon and his work, the magnificent birds, and other natural history materials in Special Collections.

This year, a display from the LSU Museum of Natural Science and live birds from the LSU Veterinary School’s Resident Raptors program provided an appropriate complement to the day’s events.
Seeing and “The Eye of the Imagination”: Fantasy, Surrealism, and Horror in the Clarence John Laughlin Book Collection

LSU Libraries Special Collections presented the exhibition, Seeing and “The Eye of the Imagination”: Fantasy, Surrealism and Horror in the Clarence John Laughlin Book Collection from July through September 2018 at Hill Memorial Library. The exhibition featured a selection of highly visual printed works representing the range and depth of the Laughlin Book Collection.

Clarence John Laughlin (1905-1985) was a New Orleans writer, photographer, and book collector. His consistent preoccupation with the metaphysical fueled his imagination and creativity. His works always included both words and images, one informing the other. Laughlin often wrote about his personal creative process, driven to share the transformative and heightened sense of reality he experienced. He took great interest in exploring the inner reality of subconscious thought, especially in relation to his work.

Best known for the surreal photographs of architectural decay in his seminal work, Ghosts Along the Mississippi, Clarence John Laughlin considered himself, first and foremost, to be a book collector. Laughlin eventually amassed a library of more than 32,000 books meant to inform and enhance the creation of art. Acquired in 1985 with support from the Friends of the LSU Libraries, the Clarence John Laughlin Book Collection mirrors the eclectic interests of its creator, measuring equal parts fine art, fantasy, the occult and science fiction. Books pertaining to his particular interest and ideas about “seeing” and alternative realities are well represented in the collection and were explored within the exhibition.

Selections from the Clarence John Laughlin Book Collection in the exhibition included Zombie (above) by Rose London and The Colour Out of Space (right) written by H. P. Lovecraft, illustrated by Virgil Finlay.
Going Viral, 16th Century Style: Luther, the Protestant Reformation, and the Printed Word

Whether or not Martin Luther nailed his ninety-five Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church in October 1517 is up for debate. However, the publications Luther produced for lay audiences in later years contributed to a “pamphlet explosion” that spread his message far and wide. The process of printing, a relatively new technological advancement, helped his message go “viral”—16th century style.

The spread of Reformation ideas, and their far-reaching effects in the spheres of religion, politics, scholarship, education, and culture, would not have been possible without the existence of the technological innovation of printing with moveable type, introduced in Europe in the middle of the 15th century. The history of the Protestant Reformation and its legacy is thus inextricably linked to the history of printing and publishing in the Western world.

LSU Libraries Special Collections marked the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation with an exhibition featuring an array of books from the Rare Book Collection. Selected works revealed the printed word used both as tool and weapon—to instruct, to inform, to persuade, as well as to refute and attack—concepts we are quite familiar with in the age of social media.

“The Reformation at 500: A Reflection in Rare Books” ran from October 2 – December 21, 2017 in the lecture hall in Hill Memorial Library.
Ligatures to Lichen: Gravestone Letterforms

LSU Libraries Special Collections collaborated with the LSU School of Art on “Letterform Characters: From Stone Carver to Type Designer,” an exhibition in the main gallery of Hill Memorial Library from October 9, 2017–February 17, 2018. The exhibition featured two distinctive perspectives on typeface history and design.

LSU Professor of Art Lynne Baggett presented a challenging assessment of the relationship between influential crosscurrents of craft, technology, and design over the course of nearly five centuries through her research of incised letterforms on gravestones from the British Isles and colonial New England (circa mid 16th-late 18th century). Exhibiting her own photographs of carved gravestone lettering alongside selected printed works from LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baggett compared the unique visual and aesthetic characteristics of incised letterforms with those typographic conventions found in printed material of the period.

Selections from the LSU Libraries’ Bruce Rogers Collection were also on display. Master American book designer Rogers is considered the preeminent typographer of the 20th century; Centaur is the best known of his typeface designs. Art historians and rare book experts name the Oxford Lectern Bible (1935) his finest work; this volume, along with an account of its printing, were on exhibition among many other exemplary works Rogers designed and printed over the span of his career.

In July 2016, in the wake of the Russian hacking of the DNC and the abrupt resignation of party chair, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Democrats turned to veteran political strategist and party official Donna Brazile for help. In *Hacks*, Brazile shares the complete story of the challenges she faced in working with the Clinton campaign, staving off Russian cyber attacks, and leading a party embroiled in chaos and scandal. Only by laying bare the missteps, miscalculations, and crimes of 2016, Brazile contends, will Americans be able to salvage their democracy.

Donna Brazile was recently appointed the Gwendolyn S. and Colbert I. King Endowed Chair in Public Policy at Howard University. Before her appointment at there, she was temporarily appointed a Joan Shorenstein fellow at The Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. Twice serving as interim chair of the Democratic National Committee, she is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and a contributor to ABC News.

A Louisiana native and graduate of Louisiana State University, Brazile worked on every presidential campaign from 1976 through 2000, when she served as Al Gore’s campaign manager. In 2014, Brazile donated her papers to LSU Libraries Special Collections.

**Facing page:** Brazile speaks at Hill Memorial Library on November 17, 2017. **Inset:** Brazile at work on the 2000 presidential campaign.
Hacks
The Inside Story of the Break-ins and Breakdowns That Put Donald Trump in the White House
Donna Brazile
**Recent Special Collections Acquisitions**

LSU Special Collections welcomes guests from across the globe to conduct research and study the vast holdings. Whether it's rare books, manuscripts, or other special research collections, the Special Collections staff strives to preserve, add, and make collections available so all can benefit from the magnificent resources.

LSU Special Collections recent acquisitions for the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections include 19th century items such as a fabric swatch scrapbook belonging to Mary Macrery Britton Conner of Clover Nook in Adams County, Mississippi; four cartes-de-visite of formerly enslaved children; a bill of sale for an enslaved man in St. Tammany Parish; and the correspondence of New York native George H. Suydam received before, during, and after his service in Louisiana for the United States Army during the Civil War.

In addition, Special Collections acquired a collection of images documenting River Road from the 1940s to 1960s by Baton Rouge-area physician, Dr. Robert Potts; scrapbooks relating to the career of Judge Frederick S. Ellis of St. Tammany and Orleans parishes; additional papers of political consultant Donna Brazile; and LSU's A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Black Alumni Association records. Special Collections also added the records and papers of Senator Mary Landrieu, Professor Robert “Bob” Mann, and Judge James Brady. These acquisitions enhance Special Collections’ strong presence with Louisiana-based political collections and will complement existing collections, such as the Senator J. Bennett Johnston and Senator John Breaux records.

**Mary Landrieu**

In 2018, the Libraries received Senator Mary Landrieu’s papers, delivered in more than 1,300 boxes, in addition to about 800 GB of data.

The collection documents Landrieu’s varied political career in Louisiana and Washington, D.C. This collection adds to the Libraries’ already robust political papers collection and describes crucial issues in Louisiana’s political history, such as the government’s response to Hurricane Katrina and the levee breaches in New Orleans.

Landrieu, born in Virginia, grew up in New Orleans where her family has a long-standing history in politics. She earned her bachelor’s degree from LSU in 1977 in sociology. Landrieu became the first woman from Louisiana to be elected to a full term in the United States Senate. Prior to becoming a senator, she served as the Louisiana state treasurer and was a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives.
Robert “Bob” Mann

Robert Mann, the Douglas Manship Chair of Journalism at the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication since 2006, has spent nearly 40 years working in both journalism and politics, and in early 2018, donated his papers and manuscripts to Special Collections. As a reporter covering Louisiana politics starting in the early 1980s, Mann wrote for the Shreveport Journal and the Monroe News-Star. He went on to become the press secretary to U.S. Senator Russell Long, then press secretary for the 1990 re-election campaign of U.S. Senator J. Bennett Johnston, and later spent 17 years as the press secretary for U.S. Senator John Breaux. After leaving Breaux’s office, Mann served as the communications director to Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco. More recently, Mann has contributed to publications such as the New York Times, the Boston Globe, the Times-Picayune, Politico, and Vox. Mann is the author and/or editor of ten books, including Daisy Petals and Mushroom Clouds: LBJ, Barry Goldwater and the Ad that Changed American Politics (LSU Press, 2011), A Journalist’s Diplomatic Mission: Ray Stannard Baker’s World War I Diary (LSU Press, 2012), and Legacy to Power: Senator Russell Long of Louisiana (Paragon House, 1992).

Judge James Brady

Judge Brady was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in 2000 and three years later, settled the decades-long desegregation case of East Baton Rouge schools. He served not only as the chair of the Louisiana Democratic Party, but also as a delegate for the Democratic National Convention. A native of Covington, Louisiana, Brady received his bachelor’s degree from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1966 and earned a Juris Doctor from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1969, in which fellow students at both universities elected him student body president. Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Brady was in private practice and taught classes at LSU throughout the 1980s and 1990s. He died in December 2017 and his wife, Karen Brady donated his records to Special Collections in May 2018.
LSU Libraries Special Collections Research Grants

LSU Libraries selected three scholars to receive travel grants to use the extensive historical material in the LSU Special Collections for their respective research and book projects. The grants supported the travel and lodging costs associated with a research trip to LSU Special Collections in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Kathleen Hilliard, Associate Professor of History at Iowa State University, will consult dozens of collections at LSU, including papers of soldiers, officials, planters, and other Southern residents, with attention paid to observations about enslaved and freed people. Hilliard's book, *Bonds Burst Asunder: The Revolutionary Politics of Getting By in Civil War and Emancipation, 1860-1867*, examines the transformation of southern political economy during the American Civil War and African American emancipation, exploring how bonds were exploded in a revolution men and women neither aimed at nor anticipated.

Dr. William Cossen, humanities instructor at the Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology, will work on research for a peer-reviewed journal article about the lived experience of Catholic soldiers during the Civil War. He has published and presented extensively about Catholicism and Catholic identity. “Soldiers and Sacraments: The Lived Catholic Civil War” brings together several scholarly subfields, including military history, lived religion, Catholic studies, environmental history, and the study of the Good Death.

William Jones, Ph.D. candidate in history at Rice University, consulted a wide variety of materials from the LSU collections, including planters’ papers, local government records, and folklore and oral history collections. His dissertation examines region-of-origin based divisions among slaves in Louisiana. He conducted research for his dissertation project, tentatively titled “‘Americans,’ ‘Creoles,’ and the Cultural Consequences of Forced Migration in Nineteenth-Century Lower Louisiana,” which investigates the interactions between English-speaking enslaved people and their francophone Louisiana creole peers to understand how the domestic slave trade, in Ira Berlin’s words, “remade black life.”

In November 2017, graduate students from the French Antilles participating in an exchange program between LSU and the Université des Antilles visited Special Collections to view materials related to the history of slavery.
Eighteenth Century Depictions of Marine Life

Dr. James “Jim” Bishop (Science, ’74) has traveled the world as a research scientist, leading projects and contributing to the identification of hundreds of species. Bishop’s primary interest is in assessing and managing renewable coastal marine resources, particularly shrimp and fish. These research interests are evident in the generous in-kind donation he has made to the LSU Libraries Special Collections’ E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection. His gift includes three distinctly beautiful and rare books representing early and extraordinarily detailed works on marine life.

*Testacea utriusque Siciliae eorumque historia et anatome: tabulis aeneis illustrate*, Giuseppe Saverio Poli, three volumes in four, 114 leaves of plates, published in Parma 1791 to 1827.

Giuseppe Saverio Poli’s *Testacea utriusque Siciliae* provides text about and intricately detailed illustrations of the shellfish of Sicily, and is the first such work to move beyond simple descriptions of shells to describe and illustrate the anatomy of the creatures inside.

Poli’s (1746-1825) appointment to the Royal Military Academy in 1774 took him to London, where he met Captain James Cook, Sir Joseph Banks, and William Hunter, all of whom had an interest in natural science and in collecting fossils and other specimens of the natural world. Over the years he met other European naturalists who stoked his interest in the natural world. During his career as a medical doctor and teacher, his positions gave him time to pursue his other scientific interests.

The gift included the first two volumes of *Testacea utriusque Siciliae*, which were published in 1791 and 1795 under Poli’s supervision. A civil war interrupted publication of volume three. Poli’s death in 1825 meant the last volume would be published posthumously with only half of the text attributed to Poli.

As exquisite as they are, the volumes stand out for more than their illustrations and lavish printing techniques. Poli was the first to establish molluscan comparative anatomy as a discipline. He was also the first to measure the contractile forces of molluscan abductor muscles (for which he invented a device), to trace blood flow in mollusks, and to breed them in captivity so as to study their reproduction and development. Poli also created a two-part classification system, one part using the established system based on shell description and the other a wholly new system of his creation based on anatomical description. Though Poli’s system never caught on, some of his descriptions remain in use today.

*Testacea utriusque Siciliae*
Poissons, ecrevisses et crabes, Louis Renard, two volumes in one, 100 hand-colored engraved plates containing 459 figures, published in Amsterdam, 1719.

Louis Renard’s *Poissons, ecrevisses et crables*, is a phantasmagorical publication describing for the first time fish, shellfish, alongside crabs found in the former Dutch East Indies. Included in the color illustrations are a number of fictional creatures, including a mermaid, and fanciful representations of quite real fish, crabs, and shellfish.

Renard was born in France around 1678 to a Huguenot family. Because of the religious persecution of the day, the Renard family fled France for the Netherlands, settling in Amsterdam by 1699. Renard married and set up shop as a book dealer and publisher, gaining a reputation for publishing large-format atlases.
Jim Bishop’s gift to LSU is remarkably rare. The first edition of *Poissons, ecrevisses et crabes* was published in 1719 in two volumes. Only sixteen copies of this edition are known to exist, one of which is part of Bishop’s donation to LSU. Reinier and Ottens published the second edition in Amsterdam in 1754 with a known print run of thirty-four copies. While a little over twice the number of the first edition, this is also an extremely rare edition. The third and last edition, published by Abraham van Paddenburg and Willem Holtrop in Utrecht and Amsterdam, consisted of only six copies and those were never finished.

The illustrations were created by a number of people, none of whom were Renard. Even though some of the species in *Poissons, Ecrevisses et Crabes* were known in Europe, Renard made a point of saying the images were accurate reflections of the creatures illustrated. Despite his attempts to assure his readers the illustrations were accurate, it seems that none of them are completely realistic and most, if not all, of the descriptions are fabrications.

Despite these drawbacks, the illustrations are not entirely fantasies of an overactive mind. Theodore W. Pietsch, an ichthyologist working in the late 20th century, studied the *Poissons, Ecrevisses et Crabes*’ illustrations and found less than ten percent fell into the “truly fantastical” category. Pietsch wrote “to cast the work off as being without scientific merit is to greatly underestimate its value” as it “gives us an intriguing glimpse of what science was like in the late 17th century and early 18th centuries.”

These three works will be of interest to students and faculty of ichthyology, as well as members of the public with an interest in fishes of the world. They also play a part in the study of the histories of science, publishing, and printing. Each publication contains exemplars of three kinds of illustration in printing—hand-coloring, chromolithography, and copper plate engraving. All three works add immense value to the natural history collections held in LSU Libraries Special Collections.

*Poissons, Ecrevisses et Crabes* (Amsterdam, 1719)
2018 Senior Gift Campaign

New dry-erase boards are available to students in Middleton Library, thanks to the donors to the 2018 Senior Gift Campaign. Each year, the Senior Gift focuses on a specific area of campus. The 2018 campaign gave students the opportunity to give back to LSU Libraries or another area of their choice. The contributions made to the Libraries went to the LSU Libraries Excellence Fund, which supports the most immediate needs of the Libraries and ensures even better facilities, resources, and programming for future Tigers.

Top Student Donor

Jose Muñoz Ruiz (Business, ’18), was the 2018 Senior Gift Campaign Chair and the top student donor, with LSU Libraries being his fund of choice.

“Our university was built on the foundation of education, and without the library providing so many avenues for student success, we wouldn’t be making the strides that we are. The LSU Libraries have been a vital part of our community, enriching the lives of both students and faculty,” said Muñoz Ruiz.

From the Student Body President

“LSU Libraries served as a home to me and my friends for many years. A library is the cornerstone of a university. It shaped the path for education of every student on this campus. My educational journey has been structured by the LSU Libraries and the services they provide. In several classes, I have had the privilege to have online books provided by the Libraries. This has made the beginning of my semesters much more efficient!”

Stewart Lockett
The Daily Reveille Digitization Initiative

LSU Libraries is partnering with the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication to digitize LSU’s award-winning student newspaper. The Daily Reveille dates back to 1897 and features articles from significant eras of history. The Daily Reveille’s student-led staff has covered significant national and international events, including the Jim Crow era, World War I and World War II, the civil rights movement and desegregation, the women’s movement, Korean War, Vietnam War, and 9/11. The Daily Reveille’s stories have helped to illuminate the political, intellectual, and cultural history of Louisiana and the American South.

Digitizing The Daily Reveille material helps maintain and honor journalism from past Reveille writers and provides instant access to the material. Digitized materials will be publicly accessible online and keyword-searchable, ensuring immediate, easy access and high usability. Scholars and learners everywhere who aspire to better understand the rich intellectual landscape of America will benefit from this project.

An LSU alumnus and former editor for The Daily Reveille during the civil rights era has donated $25,000 toward the goal of digitizing all The Daily Reveille collections. To learn more about donating to the the initiative visit lsufoundation.org/DRDI.
LSU Libraries Student Advisory Council

LSU Libraries has implemented a Student Advisory Council to represent the Libraries to the student body and provide a formal channel for student suggestions related to library needs. The council, an initiative suggested by the LSU Student Government, is composed of 8 undergraduate and graduate students nominated by LSU faculty or staff members or a student organization.

The council launched on March 21, 2018 with a kick-off meeting. There will be three council meetings each semester. The responsibilities of the council include promoting and supporting LSU Libraries, representing the Libraries at University functions, providing student input on support services and promotional materials, and sharing personal LSU Libraries experiences with peers. Members are required to be in good standing with the University, to be enthusiastic about helping their peers succeed, and to be willing to participate and lead discussions for student groups in person or online.

Serving on the council is an honor as well as a rewarding experience, giving the council members the opportunity to practice their communication and leadership skills, network with faculty, staff and other students, and further their academic success by learning more about the LSU Libraries.

#NationalLibraryWeek

National Library Week is a celebration sponsored by the American Library Association. The 2018 celebration marked the 60th anniversary of the first event in 1958.

In April, the LSU community had the chance to express its gratitude for the LSU Libraries by writing it on a dry-erase board and giving to the 2018 Senior Gift Campaign.
General Syed Ali Zamin Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Mahler was the Fall 2017 recipient of the General Syed Ali Zamin Memorial Scholarship. Mahler is an International Studies junior. She has worked in Access Services since 2015. “I am beyond grateful, and I’m humbled to have this opportunity to receive the Zamin Scholarship,” Mahler said. “It will empower me to represent LSU Libraries and succeed in my studies.”

Karielle Davis was the Spring 2018 recipient of the scholarship. Davis is a Kinesiology sophomore. She has worked in the circulation unit since September 2016. “I am humbled and greatly appreciative for being the chosen recipient of this year’s [scholarship],” Davis said. “I put a lot of time, energy, and consideration into being the best employee that I can be, along with delivering the best customer service I possibly can.”

“...great to know that I’m appreciated and thank you to the Access Services for your acknowledgment.”

- Karielle Davis

The Zamin Scholarship was established in the fall of 2014 by the Zamin family. The scholarship is awarded to a student worker in the Access Services department who demonstrates the same professional work ethic and love for LSU Libraries as the Zamins’ father did. After serving as an officer of the Pakistan army beginning in World War II and rising to the rank of lieutenant general, General Syed Ali Zamin retired and was appointed as a Pakistani ambassador to four countries. He moved to the United States to pursue a third career as a library associate, working for 12 years as the LSU Libraries head stacks supervisor.

LIB.LSU.EDU/ABOUT/GIVING/ZAMIN
Sound, Music, and Thinking Outside the Box

LSU Libraries Music Resources Supervisor Mikel LeDee presented Sound, Music, and Thinking Outside the Box at Clover College, a noncompetitive learning event for Louisiana 4-H University student participants, June 20-21, 2018. LeDee led interactive and fun presentations that focused on the elements of music, composition, and performing through listening to a variety of music by different composers, as well as completing individual and group creative challenges. Several Music Resources staff members contributed to the activities. PhD student Terrell Jones assisted LeDee during the presentations and led a group activity. PhD student Anna Ivanova demonstrated the viola and participated with the group. Graduate student Wagner Duarte demonstrated the cello and participated with the group. The students worked in small groups to score their own composition and performed it, completing the ultimate creative challenge of the class.

“I was impressed with how open, helpful, and active the participants were; and also for their original contributions and encouragement to me and to each other,” LeDee said. “It was a great class and I was happy to meet and work with everyone.”

“Music is more than just notes. It’s the feeling, the passion, and the love that is portrayed. It’s taking the notes off the page and making people fall in love. That is the beauty of music.

#music #musiclibrary #lsumusiclibrary”

- @katherine_m_f
Staff Changes

Rikki Babin was appointed Payroll/Travel & HR Coordinator.

Dave Comeaux was appointed Systems and Discovery Librarian for the LSU Libraries.

Gina Costello (pictured on page 11) was appointed Associate Dean of Technology and Special Collections.

Anne Edwards (not pictured) was appointed Facilities Manager for Hill Memorial Library.

Jacob Fontenot was appointed head of the Interlibrary Loan Department (ILL) at LSU Libraries.

Emily Frank was appointed Coordinator of Scholarship and Open Access.

Heather Mann was appointed Business Manager.

Tasha McClain was appointed Patent and Trademark Resource Librarian.

Retirements

Thank you and best wishes to Tom Brewer and Anitra Carter, LSU Libraries staff members who retired this past year. Together, they represent many years of service to the Libraries.
Achievements and Awards

Lauren Coats received an NEH Institutes for the Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities grant with co-principal investigator Emily McGinn (University of Georgia), for their project “Textual Data and Digital Texts in the Undergraduate Classroom.”

Jennifer Cramer received The LSU Libraries Staff Award, which recognizes a staff member who has demonstrated exceptional accomplishments through job responsibilities and service to the LSU Libraries and the library community.

Emily Frank (pictured on page 29) received The 2018 Early Career Librarian Award, which recognizes an LSU Libraries faculty member who has demonstrated exceptional accomplishments in the Libraries through initiative, creativity, and ability to make a significant contribution to the library within the first six years of his or her career.

Linda Smith Griffin received the 2018 Carolyn H. Hargrave Faculty Leadership Award, which recognizes an LSU Libraries faculty member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership to the Libraries through job responsibilities, research, and service.

Andrea Hebert and Marty Miller received the 2018 Louisiana Library Association’s “Article of the Year” Award for their article “Using FSA-OWI Photographs to Teach Information and Visual Literacy” published in Volume 79, Issue 3 (Winter 2017) of Louisiana Libraries.

Hayley Johnson and Sarah Simms received the ALA Carnegie Whitney grant and the NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Award, for the second time, to fund the second phase of their project, “Through an Extended Lens: Louisiana, Internment, and the Geography of Chance.”

Simms and Johnson discussed their research on Japanese internment in Louisiana during WWII at the national American Library Association conference.
Sigrid Kelsey was appointed to the ACRL Impactful Scholarship and Metrics Task Force; the ALA *American Libraries* Advisory Committee; and the ALA Publishing Committee.

Cara Key was accepted to the Winter 2018 ARL Digital Scholarship Institute. Part of the ARL Academy, DSI is a cohort-based initiative to train participants in a core set of digital scholarship methodologies and tools.

Sigrid Kelsey was appointed to the ACRL Impactful Scholarship and Metrics Task Force; the ALA *American Libraries* Advisory Committee; and the ALA Publishing Committee.

Cara Key was accepted to the Winter 2018 ARL Digital Scholarship Institute. Part of the ARL Academy, DSI is a cohort-based initiative to train participants in a core set of digital scholarship methodologies and tools.

Marty Miller was awarded a grant from The Metropolitan Center for Eastern Art Studies’ Library Grant Program to purchase books about Asian art for the Libraries.

Nick Skaggs received the 2018 A. Otis Hebert, Jr. Continuing Education Scholarship from the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA).

Left to right: Sarah Simms, Sigrid Kelsey, Cara Key, Nick Skaggs

**Faculty Publications**

Alice Daugherty and Emily Frank. **2017** “The Bottom Line: DDA, E-Textbooks, and Student Savings at Louisiana State University Libraries.” In *Affordable Course Materials: Electronic Textbooks and Open Educational Resources*. ALA editions


New Faculty & Staff

Joseph Doerfler (not pictured) joined LSU Libraries as a Computer Analyst.

Larissa Elliot, former Access Service student assistant, joined LSU Libraries as Student Coordinator for Interlibrary Loan.

Amanda Hawk joined the Libraries as Special Collections Head of Public and Research Services. Hawk will manage and coordinate all aspects of the Special Collections’ reference services and public services. She holds a BA in History and an MA in History and Master of Library Science.

Sarah Jacobs joined the Libraries as the new Library Associate in Collection Services.

Hayley Johnson joined LSU Libraries as Head of Government Documents and Microforms. Johnson is in charge of the daily operations of the government documents collection and oversees the federal depository program in Louisiana. She holds a BA and an MA in English and a MLIS from LSU.

Matthew Jordan joined the Libraries as a Cataloging Associate. He holds a BA and MA in History.

Elizabeth Long joined the Libraries as the Resource Sharing Coordinator for Interlibrary Loan.

Megan Lounsberry was appointed Electronic Resources Librarian.

Nora Melancon (not pictured) joined the Libraries as a Library Associate 3 in Collection Services.

Brittany O’Neill joined LSU Libraries as the Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian in the Research and Instruction Services department. O’Neill holds a BA in English with a focus in Technical Communication and an MLIS.

Jason Swint (not pictured) joined the Libraries as the Business Office Coordinator.

Row 1: Larissa Elliot, Amanda Hawk; Row 2: Sarah Jacobs, Hayley Johnson
Row 3: Matthew Jordan, Elizabeth Long; Row 4: Megan Lounsberry, Brittany O’Neill
Nick Skaggs was appointed Manuscripts Processing Archivist.

Melissa Smith joined the Libraries faculty as Assistant Curator of Manuscripts. Smith’s position includes acquiring donations of papers, records and collections for Special Collections. She holds a BA and MA in history.

Scott Ziegler joined LSU Libraries faculty as Head of Digital Programs and Services. Ziegler holds a BA and MA in Philosophy and an MLIS.

First-year LSU School of Architecture students create 1:1 scale “self” clones from recycled cardboard. The clones were set up throughout Middleton Library the week of September 18-22, 2017.

#CloneMid
In Memoriam

Dr. Stephen J. Bensman

LSU Libraries is saddened to note the passing of Dr. Stephen J. Bensman in January 2018. Bensman worked for 37 years for LSU Libraries in a variety of positions, most significantly as bibliographer for the social sciences and cataloging librarian, before retiring from the Libraries in 2015.

Bensman was a prolific researcher, noted in the journal *Scientometrics* as one of the top 20 librarian authors worldwide. Bensman’s research was enhanced by collaborations with other LSU faculty members. One of these collaborators was Lawrence Smolinsky, Roy Paul Daniels Professor of Mathematics at LSU. Commenting on Bensman’s passing, Smolinsky said, “Steve was a good friend and helped to set the direction of my work for the later part of my career.” Smolinsky added that, after an initial collaboration on a scholarly paper, “We continued to collaborate, and I have now been working in scientometrics and bibliometrics for close to a decade. I am grateful to Steve for his friendship and guidance.”

In addition to his university service and scholarship, in 2016 Bensman made a generous charitable bequest to the LSU Libraries to expand the library’s collection on Southern Jewish history. “Steve and Miriam Bensman’s gift is destined to make LSU the leading repository of Jewish cultural material in the South,” said Dean of Libraries Stanley Wilder. “This gift is truly a legacy in the making.”

For all that he contributed to LSU Libraries, the University, and the field of library science, LSU Libraries salutes the life of Stephen Bensman.

Peggy Chalaron

When Peggy Chalaron began working at LSU Libraries, Middleton Library was a two-story building. By the time she retired—forty-six years later—it was four stories. As one of LSU’s longest-serving librarians, Chalaron’s colleagues looked to her for institutional memory when the University celebrated Middleton Library’s 50th anniversary.

Mike Russo got to know Peggy fairly well during her last years with LSU Libraries, as he drove her to and from work after Chalaron’s eye problems prevented her from driving. Though being legally blind certainly limited her ability to get around town on her own, it didn’t stop her from doing anything else. Adjustable font sizes on her computer and Kindle and a magnifying glass allowed her to continue working and reading.

“I heard all about her family during those drives,” recalls Russo, “her mother, in her nineties, was still going strong. Her brother—her only sibling—was still something of a ladies’ man well into his seventies. She always spoke glowingly of her son and daughter and was unfailingly amazed by her irrepressible husband, Mickey. What really tickled her, though, were her grandchildren by her daughter, whom she and Mickey visited at every opportunity and Skyped when they couldn’t visit.”

Chalaron held many other positions, such as such as head of acquisitions in Middleton Library, head of the library science library, and Education Resources during her tenure at LSU and retired in 2013. Her retirement years were, sadly, cut short by a sudden illness, and she passed away in 2017. “I have missed those commutes and those conversations,” notes Russo, “but I still have the memories.”
THANKS LSU LIBRARIES FOR...
-Primary Documents

THANKS LSU LIBRARIES FOR...
A relaxing vibe

THANKS LSU LIBRARIES FOR...
Your amazing help...you rock!

THANKS LSU LIBRARIES FOR...
Silence

THANKS LSU LIBRARIES FOR...
Homework help

#nationallibrariesweek
Below: Rainey Landry (Psychology, '18)
Photo by: Larissa Elliott