Friends, supporters, fellow Longhorns.

I am delighted to share with you this review of several accomplishments over the last year at the University of Texas Libraries.

As I reflect on the past year, I look with gratitude on another exciting period of transformation as our staff began to implement radical changes in the strategic approach to our work. We have continued to redevelop space and redeploy our human resources to meet the evolving needs of our users, on the Forty Acres and beyond.

We have strengthened existing relationships, explored new collaborations with campus partners to enhance opportunities for student success, and developed mutually-beneficial relationships with international partners that have resulted in benefits for people across the globe. Leveraging our expertise and creativity, we’ve embedded ourselves in the university’s learning ecosystem, and we’ve deployed our expertise beyond the library’s walls in support of technical needs for campus. We continue to reimagine the role of the library in the world of digital information while keeping a foot firmly planted in the world of distinctive physical materials, and in doing so, discover new ways to enrich the value of both.

Joseph Campbell once noted that you can tell what is most important to a society by its tallest buildings. The UT Tower that stands at the center of campus as a beacon to the world was built to serve as the library for the university, and there’s a deep significance to that. The library is at the heart of learning, both in thought and station.

We have even grander plans for the future. We hope you will join us on this journey as UT Libraries rethinks the possibilities for a world class research university in the twenty first century.

Dr. Lorraine J. Haricombe
Vice Provost and Director, University of Texas Libraries
The Libraries are an integral part of the teaching and learning ecosystem, providing instruction opportunities beyond the classroom, coordinating with faculty to experiment in library spaces and collaborating with campus partners to provide services that improve campus learning outcomes. The Libraries have opened spaces in the Perry-Castañeda Library to support STEM learning and assist students with presentations, and staff have worked with faculty to present a semester-long class on site.
Expanding on collaborative relationships to create a learning ecosystem within its flagship branch, the Perry-Castañeda Library, the Libraries have leveraged campus partnerships to create new support spaces in the Learning Commons.

The Libraries partnered with Student Success Initiatives in the Provost Office, the College of Natural Sciences, the Cockrell School of Engineering and the Sanger Learning Center to create a supported learning space for students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields at The University of Texas at Austin.

The STEM Study Area was developed in coordination with partners to realize a space accessible to students at the point of need in the heavily-trafficked, centrally-located PCL.

A second partnership in this space is with Sanger Learning Center — an academic support unit of the School of Undergraduate Studies — to pilot a program to provide students assistance with public speaking.

The Public Speaking Center (PSC) resides in a newly renovated space on the entry level of the Perry-Castañeda Library and expands on the services provided within the recently developed Learning Commons in support of improved student outcomes.

Trained peer consultants from the Sanger Learning Center offer two types of consultations for all university students with pending assignments — preparation phase consultations for students who want to work on their outlines, notes, presentation slides and transitions, and rehearsal phase consultations for students who want to practice their speeches and receive feedback about the content, visual media and vocal delivery.

New Learning Spaces at PCL
The Libraries used the Learning Commons first full year of existence as an opportunity for experimenting with ideas for extending the campus learning experience beyond the traditional classroom.

One innovative example is the piloting of a semester-long, experimental class taught as a project of the Faculty Innovation Committee, which developed from university-wide Campus Conversations.

“The Past and Future of Higher Education” explored the history and future of higher education and used the class as the space to create a student constituency for thinking through the problems facing higher education. The class looked at the past, present and future of higher education with students working together in six teams to consider problems in economics, politics, society, culture, technology and academics. The class — team taught by Julia Mickenberg (American Studies), Rich Reddick (Higher Education Administration) and Kate Catterall (Design) — included upper division undergraduates and graduate students.

Librarians from Teaching and Learning Services were embedded in the course to provide assistance and a library-centric perspective on class discussions. The program also featured numerous special events for campus including a student showcase of final projects for campus and a national speaker.
Community

Libraries serve a multiplicity of users, both on site and increasingly remotely, through services and spaces that are not necessarily reflective of those commonly associated with the traditional library archetype. Libraries are realizing an ability to use existing resources to adapt and respond to the evolving needs of the campus. In the past year, the Libraries has expanded its reach across campus to serve other departments’ technology needs and has constructed a space to serve graduate and scholarly users.
In 2016, the Libraries opened a new space in the PCL designed to meet the needs of graduate students and users in search of more solitude and quiet in an increasingly bustling and vibrant environment. The Scholars Commons was envisioned to provide a place in the flagship branch of the Libraries for undisturbed study and scholarly collaboration. The space features a silent study area, a data lab, a Graduate Landing Spot and a modest exhibition space, all situated in the former periodicals room and adjacent staff office spaces on the entry level of the PCL.

The Libraries sought out campus stakeholders to partner in a project that ultimately serves both the interest of the Libraries and the units most closely aligned with the relevant user group, in this case the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Graduate School and the Graduate Student Assembly.

The silent study area was created specifically at the request of graduate student patrons of the Libraries whose needs have, at times, been deferred in order to support the larger undergraduate community on campus. Though open to all students, it is expected that the solitary, meticulous learning style of advanced scholars is more suited to the space.

The Data Lab provides software for statistical analysis, data visualization and text encoding, and users have access to digital content management software and other web-based tools for digital scholarship. The Graduate Landing Spot is an exclusive communal area where graduates from across disciplines meet, share ideas and potentially strike up interdisciplinary collaborations. The exhibition space provides opportunities for visual presentations to showcase faculty and student research.

The space also realizes a need to co-locate a community environment for graduate students within reach of the valuable resources, subject liaison librarians and research lifecycle expertise at the PCL.

Opening a “Serious” Study Place
As the Libraries have continued to explore ways to expand services to address the needs of campus, we’ve considered how we might leverage our technical expertise to provide support beyond the Libraries.

Chris Carter — Libraries Director of Organizational Effectiveness — was approached by the McCombs School of Business after they discovered that his staff was providing technical support for printing labs in the Tarleton Law Library and the Briscoe Center for American History. McCombs Director David Burns wondered if that support could be scaled to provide a fully-serviced computer lab in the Business School. Carter and his staff ran the numbers and took the proposal to Libraries administration, who roundly backed the evaluative project, and in early 2015, Libraries’ IT Infrastructure staff took over the tech support of a lab at the McCombs School.

Under the terms of service, the Business School purchases the hardware and secures licensing of specialized software, and the Libraries provide installation and support of operating systems, applications and updates for the computers. When there is a problem with a PC, Libraries staff respond to address it. The fee charged per computer by the Libraries was determined to allow for the accommodation of additional IT staff should growth of the lab make it necessary.

Along with the campus library branches, this brings the support coverage area maintained by Libraries staff to 14 locations, and Carter feels that there is room to expand to provide the service to others on campus.

The College of Natural Sciences recently contributed 20 additional computers to the Mallet Chemistry Library — bringing the number of computers to 32 — and provided specialized software, but, in this case, the Libraries simply took ownership of the expanded lab. The opportunities for growth in the third-party support model for campus computer labs, though, is extensive thanks to an ever-present need for technology.
Expertise

As the UT Libraries move through an era of transition and strategic recalibration, staff are being realigned to meet new challenges and leaders are being placed to guide the organization to greater accomplishment. The Libraries have made a number of hires to fill positions created to achieve specific goals toward strategic priorities, and LLILAS Benson secures a new director as it gains a solid footing.
Garrard Takes Over at LLILAS Benson

In early 2016, Professor Virginia Garrard was chosen to replace outgoing director Charles Hale as the new director of LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections. A faculty member at The University of Texas at Austin since 1990, Garrard holds positions as professor in the departments of History and Religious Studies, and as a faculty affiliate of the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS).

Garrard has a distinguished career as a professor, researcher, scholar and author. Her research interests include historic memory and human rights during the Cold War in Latin America, archives and history, and contemporary Central American history. She is equally interested in religious movements and ethnic identity in Latin America, and the intersection of religion and politics in the region.

Her many years of involvement with LLILAS include having served as undergraduate faculty adviser at the institute from 1997 through 2006. She has relied on the Benson Latin American Collection extensively for both research and teaching. In spring 2016 she taught History of Modern Central America Through Digital Archives at the collection, a course using newly developed digital archives for original student research. She was also co-organizer of the 2014 Lozano Long Conference, “Archiving the Central American Revolutions,” a ground-breaking gathering sponsored by LLILAS Benson that brought together scholars, students and activists with firsthand knowledge of the revolutionary period.

Garrard’s deep knowledge of the Benson as well as LLILAS stands her in good stead as the leader of the partnership. “We’re privileged to welcome a scholar with a deep appreciation for the value of libraries to lead this partnership forward — especially with one who brings direct and extensive research and teaching experience with the exceptional resources of the Benson Latin American Collection,” said Lorraine Haricombe, vice-provost and director of University of Texas Libraries. “We look forward to the benefits that her perspective and leadership will bring to LLILAS Benson.”
As we look toward the future library, new faces are filling positions that are outside the traditional library mold. The Libraries must address new currents and new fields of inquiry in ways that take advantage of opportunities in the digital realm, as well as within traditional institutional frameworks.

The Libraries hired Katie Pierce Meyer as Humanities Librarian for Architecture and Planning to take on a role as administrative lead of the APL and also to focus on how to develop efforts in the digital humanities at a branch level that could be scaled to an organizational-wide scope.

As African & African Diaspora Studies has continued to gain prominence at the university, so did the Libraries need for a bibliographer to support the area. Rachel Winston was hired as black diaspora archivist at the Benson Latin American Collection to work to enhance the Benson’s holdings while developing university collaborations to strengthen scholarship in this burgeoning field.

Between the expansion of digitization efforts, the prioritization of open access and the unabated growth of big data in research, finding ways to manage a new universe of information has become essential. Jessica Trelogan joined the Libraries as the new data management coordinator to build, maintain and enhance the data services deployed by the Libraries.

As digital collections continue to grow, the need has arisen for a dedicated custodian to manage both the born-digital and digitized materials that increasingly are the currency of library collections. Ashley Adair joined the Libraries Preservation Department last year as digital archivist to assume stewardship of digitized collections across various libraries and archives, where she plays an active role in the acquisition, appraisal, arrangement and description of these core resources.

We are doing different things and doing things differently. These are just the initial movements of a transformational time at the University of Texas Libraries.
Research

Research is at the heart of the Libraries mission, and increasingly it occurs within digital frameworks as a means of opening it up to and building upon it with partners across global communities. A grant has helped to further a digital history project that seeks to unify scholarly thinking on historical eras, and past efforts in developing post-custodial archives have evolved in a wide-ranging series of digital projects dealing with Latin America.
Supporting Faculty-Driven Digital Projects

The Libraries hit the ground running in 2015 with strategic successes in the area of digital humanities.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) named the Periods, Organized (PeriodO) web project as a finalist for its grant awards in the first cycle of the National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program and the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

The $237,744 grant provided additional funding for the continued development of the PeriodO online resource created through a collaboration between project directors Adam Rabinowitz (College of Liberal Arts, Department of Classics) of The University of Texas at Austin and Ryan Shaw (School of Information and Library Science) of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Initial funding for the project came in the form of a $54,096 Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant to the UT College of Liberal Arts from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2014.

Scholarship on the ancient world in particular uses conceptual rather than quantitative language to refer to time. Instead of referring to dates, it refers to periods—but different scholars can use the same period terms to mean widely different things. PeriodO is an online gazetteer of historical, art-historical, and archaeological period definitions that utilizes linked data to solve the problem of multiple categorizations of historical periods by cross-referencing the definitions of such periods by authoritative sources, rather than by relying solely on globally-accepted period concepts.

In this second phase of the project being supported by the IMLS grant, the University of Texas Libraries will join Rabinowitz, Shaw and existing collaborators to expand the dataset, functionality and services offered by the PeriodO platform. The integration of the project with the Libraries, which will include the migration of the dataset and web client to the Libraries server, the archiving of the dataset in the Texas ScholarWorks digital repository and the hosting of an international workshop will ensure the gazetteer’s long-term sustainability and broader adoption within the library and museum community. It will also make the Libraries an important node in the emerging web of linked data.
Preserving International Culture

The Benson Latin American Collection has established itself as a leader in the area of post-custodial archives — a systematic approach to preservation that places emphasis on providing for original materials to remain in the possession of its creators or cultural parentage. Such notable examples of the practice by the Benson are the projects that make up the Human Rights Documentation Initiative — including the Genocide Archive of Rwanda and the Guatemalan National Police Historical Archive — and Primeros Libros, a project to digitize the first books printed in the New World.

Most recently staff from the Benson Latin American Collection and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies have been building upon a project — initially funded from a 2014 Mellon grant award — that takes a more comprehensive approach to preserving the culture and history of Latin America.

The Latin American Digital Initiatives (LADI) repository currently represents the collaborative efforts of LLILAS Benson with three Central American organizations on four distinctive projects:

- **The Archivo de Inforpress Centroamericana at El Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA)** in Guatemala, which features news clippings and documents compiled by the journal Inforpress Centroamericana on the topic of violence in Guatemala.

- **Colección Conflicto Armado del Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen at Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen** in El Salvador, highlighting political propaganda produced during the Salvadoran armed conflict by clandestine groups and non-governmental organizations as well as the military.

- **Hemeroteca del Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen** also based at the Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen, documenting clandestine publications from the period of the Salvadoran armed conflict.

- **La Información at Centro de Investigación y Documentación de la Costa Atlántica** documenting the historical newspaper’s coverage of social, political and economic life of Bluefields, Nicaragua.

Initial work is complete and the website for LADI (ladi.lib.utexas.edu) launched in November 2015. Recently, the site (and the team that built it) was awarded the Excellence in Digital Libraries Award from the Texas Digital Library.
If you stack all the books the UT Libraries has, it would be as tall as 4,693 UT Towers, or high enough to reach 30 miles past the International Space Station. 1 year is equal to 23 sold out of UT Libraries gate count. All UT Libraries, collaborative study spaces and technology can fill 11 football fields. UT Libraries staff had 100,000 reference sessions per year. 9.4 million visitors to UT Libraries website. UT Libraries collections are so extensive we could give each UT Alum 20 volumes each.
Supporting the University of Texas Libraries

UT Libraries is fortunate to hold 45 endowments totaling about $6 million in value. Advisory Council giving in FY15 was 51% totaling $63,100 and grew in FY16 to 63% totaling $89,375.

UT Libraries raised $21,718 during 40 Hours for the Forty Acres, a 279% increase in support over our campaign last year! Special thanks to our champions Sarah Brandt, Jenifer Flaxbart, Rachel Jew, Cale McDowell and Dennis Trombatore.

This year we received a commitment that will provide substantial monetary support when realized. Darrick and Chiquita Eugene signed a gift intention letter to establish The Darrick and Dr. Chiquita Eugene Family Endowment to support the Black Diaspora Archival Collection. This is the first major commitment to support this new and developing collection.

David Bliss was awarded the David O. Nilsson Endowed Graduate Fellowship. David is a master’s student of archival science in the School of Information. His areas of focus are community archives, digital archiving and Spanish and Latin American materials. David works as part of the Benson Latin American Collection’s post-custodial initiatives, digitizing and providing research access to vulnerable or inaccessible materials from around the world without removing them from their places of creation.

The David O. Nilsson Scholarship for University of Texas Libraries Student Workers was awarded to three recipients:

- Lisa Strong, a Biochemistry junior in the College of Natural Science. Strong is attempting to find a drug that targets the protein Inosine 5 Monophosphate Dehydrogenase (IMPDH) in anthrax. She has worked for the Libraries for 2 years.

- Logan Bartlett, an International Relations and Global Studies major with a focus on science, technology, and the environment. Logan is researching the effectiveness of government restrictions, renewable energy investment and local initiatives on limiting the effects of climate change. He has worked for the Libraries for 3 years.

- Soane Sheu, a mechanical engineering sophomore in the Cockrell School of Engineering. He is currently manufacturing wheel hubs for Longhorn Racing’s new car. He has worked for the Libraries for 1 year.
Think Space Contributions

Dr. Patricia Roberts-Miller named a low distraction room in the Learning Commons in the Perry-Castañeda Library in honor of her friend and colleague, Dr. Stephanie Odom.

Student Sponsors donated $1,700, the estimated cost of providing services for one student in the new PCL Learning Commons:

Austin Radiological Association
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Tom Sheppard Nichols + Regina Traxler Nichols

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Trish and Jim Roberts-Miller
Mike Rome
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Vice Provost and Director Lorraine Haricombe was elected to the Board of Directors of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) to serve a three-year term, 2015-2018.

Hannah Alpert-Abrams, Dale Correa (Middle Eastern Studies Liaison Librarian), Rachel Winston (Black Diaspora Archivist) and Mary Rader (Assistant Director of Research) presented at the “Hybrid Archives and Crossed Disciplines” Prequel roundtable in advance of the Ethnic and Third World Literatures Sequels Conference in March, 2016.

The project team of Melanie Cofield (Head of Access Systems), Brandon Cornell (Webmaster), Jon Gibson, Jose Gonzalez Roa (Information Architect), Ethan Persoff (Lead Webmaster) and Theresa Polk (Post-custodial Archivist) received the Excellence in Digital Libraries Award from the Texas Digital Library at the 2016 Texas Conference on Digital Libraries for their work with the Latin American Digital Initiatives (LADI) repository.

In November, 2015, Dale Correa participated in the annual meeting of the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) in Denver, CO, and led the Endangered Libraries and Archives Committee workshop, “Libraries and Archives in Times of Conflict: What can MELA do?” She also organized and moderated a roundtable on “Middle East Primary Resources in Times of Conflict: The Future of Collections and Fieldwork” at the Middle East Studies Association conference following MELA.

Assistant Director of Digital Scholarship Jenifer Flaxbart presented “Piloting Graduate Student Spaces and Services in Temporary Digs: UT Libraries Scholars Commons” at the Transforming Libraries for Graduate Students conference, April, 2016. She participated in the UCLA Senior Fellows Program, a three-week professional development program for senior-level academic librarians, July 24-August 12, 2016. She also serves as an American Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) University Libraries Section (ULS) Membership Committee member (2016-2018), and is on the Editorial Board for Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian.

Julianne Gilland (Director, Benson Latin American Collection) was chosen as an Association of Research Libraries Leadership Fellow, 2016-17. She served as keynote speaker at the 2nd Annual Archives Symposium, National School of Library and Archive Sciences, Mexico City, April, 2016, presenting “Archives and Libraries as Collaborators: Documenting and Facilitating Inclusion, Social Justice, and Cultural Agency in the 21st Century.” She also participated in a panel discussion with artist Monica Mayer and art historian/
Selected Presentations, Publications, Appointments & Awards, 2015 - 2016


Susan Kung, archive manager of the Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (AILLA) received a grant from the National Science Foundation (BCS-1653380), 2016-2018, for Transforming Access and Archiving for Endangered Language Data Through Exploratory Methodologies of Curation (with Anthony C. Woodbury), $248,039, awarded in 2016. She also hosted a workshop UT Austin called “Data Citation and Attribution in Linguistics” in April, 2016, and served as instructor for “Consent, Rights, and Intellectual Property: Navigating Language Documentation, Archiving, and Research,” at CoLang 2016: Institute on Collaborative Language Research, University of Alaska Fairbanks, June, 2016.

Theresa Polk was one of the keynote speakers for the symposium Open Graves, Open Archives: Ethics and Evidence in April, 2016, co-sponsored by Haverford College Libraries’ “Texts and Technologies” series: Haverford College Concentration in Peace, Justice, and Human Rights; and the Human Rights Project at Bard College.

Mary Rader presented “Area Studies: Where do we fit?” as the invited keynote speaker, Committee on East Asia Libraries (CEAL) Presidential Panel, Association for Asian Studies, March 2016. She was also elected to Executive Committee (2016-2019) and co-chair the Infrastructure Working Group [2016-] for the South Asia Materials Project (SAMP) Open Archives Initiative.

Rachel Winston attended the Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians, a week-long summer institute sponsored by the University of Minnesota Libraries in July, 2016.
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