Library Development Review

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The University of Tennessee Library Development Review 2018–2019
Two thousand nineteen marks the 225th anniversary of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. What began as a small college in 1794 is now Tennessee’s flagship university and premier public research institution. For 225 years, Volunteers have been lighting the way for others, across Tennessee and throughout the world.

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The Library Development Review is published annually for supporters of the University of Tennessee Libraries and all members of the Volunteer family.

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The University of Tennessee Libraries is committed to recognizing and appreciating the variety of characteristics that make people and communities unique. The UT Libraries puts this concept into action by intentionally creating and sustaining inclusive environments, fostering partnerships, facilitating conversations, and modeling behaviors that promote and celebrate individual and collective achievement.

We strive to provide excellent services, access to information, and outreach to our community of users regardless of age; cognitive style; culture; ability; economic background; education; ethnicity; gender identity; geographic background; immigration and asylum-seeking status; marital status; physical appearance; political affiliation; race; religious beliefs; sexual orientation. The UT Libraries is committed to providing spaces for our community of users to connect, collaborate, and learn inside and outside of the classroom.

This statement was written by our Diversity Committee and reviewed by the Libraries’ Deans Cabinet, the Library Council, and campus administration. I fully endorse this statement, and I thank our Diversity Committee for the careful thought that went into crafting these words.

In making this statement, we are not only acting in support of Vol Vision 2020 (volvision.utk.edu) and our own Libraries Strategic Plan (lib.utk.edu/about/mission-and-vision), but we are also giving life to these plans. Contemplating and sharing our new diversity statement brought to mind another statement, one that is part of a hallowed UT tradition—the Volunteer Creed, which reads:

“One that beareth a torch shadoweth oneself to give light to others.”

The UT Libraries proudly partners with many other organizations on campus, in the community, and across the nation that value diversity and inclusion. However, we are also leaders. In the spirit of the Torchbearer, we light the way for others. It’s what we do; it’s what libraries do. Being advocates for diversity is not something new, nor is it a mere afterthought to our real work—it is our work. We exist to preserve and advance knowledge, not just for a few, but for all.

In the following pages, you will find many excellent examples of how the UT Libraries works to carry out that charge. Learn how we are saving and sharing the university’s historical record. Explore the diversity of collections that we safeguard in our archives. And find out how a musician and a film director integrated the works of writer James Agee into their unique creative expressions.

One of my favorite library quotes (from Lady Bird Johnson) sums up this canon of librarianship better than I can: “Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.”

Steven Escar Smith
Dean of Libraries
Over the past year, there have been quite a few changes in the office that seeks private gifts to support the UT Libraries and guides our Library Society.

Former director of development Erin Horeni-Ogle accepted a position with Emory University, and three new staff members joined the UT Libraries’ Office of Advancement.

Brian Broyles now serves as senior director of advancement for the UT Libraries. You may remember him from years past—he began his advancement career as annual giving coordinator for the Libraries back in 2012. He also serves as UT’s chief development officer for the western United States. Broyles said, “Having the opportunity to serve the University of Tennessee in these two roles is a tremendous honor. UT makes a difference in so many lives, and being a part of that is an incredible motivator.”

Casey Fox joined the UT Libraries in May of this year as assistant director of development. Fox is no stranger to libraries, having spent the previous six years leading development efforts for the Knox County Public Library. A native Tennessean, Fox is also a graduate of UT. She earned a master’s degree in library and information science in 2015. “I’m incredibly proud to join the UT team, especially in an institution that’s so close to my heart,” Fox said. “UT Libraries plays an essential role in the lives of students, faculty, and our greater Knoxville community, and I look forward to doing my part to ensure its ongoing growth and success.”

Annamarie Russell began her career in higher education at the University of Virginia’s College at Wise and has been with the UT Libraries since 2017. In addition to day-to-day human resources operations within the Libraries, Russell assists the Office of Advancement with event programming, marketing, and stewardship activities. Russell is enthusiastic about her new role: “I am excited to be a part of a great team and share all UT Libraries has to offer to students, faculty, staff, and our community.” And according to Broyles, “Annamarie is the glue that holds our operation together. Her daily contributions are invaluable to what we do. She keeps us afloat.”

All three members of the reorganized team look forward to working with our supporters to further the mission of the Libraries.

Casey Fox, Annamarie Russell, Brian Broyles (and Smokey)
This January, after almost 10 years of planning and construction, the University of Tennessee unveiled the new Student Union—at over 395,000 square feet, its largest building project ever.

Representing a massive investment in the lives of our current and future students, the new “living room of campus” needed to have a true UT feel. How better to accomplish this aim than to weave UT history and tradition throughout the space? That was the conclusion of the branding committee for the building project, which wisely sought help from Alesha Shumar of our Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives. The many eye-catching murals you’ll observe throughout the Student Union reflect Shumar’s detailed knowledge of both UT history and the historical treasures preserved in the University Archives.

Shumar shared her perspective by answering a few questions:
How does your role support the university, and how did you use it to help bring the Student Union to life?

As university archivist, I preserve the history and legacy of the University of Tennessee through documentation of what’s happening today—and also by preserving what happened in the past. In 2012, after the building plans were approved for the Student Union, I was asked to create a chronicle of UT history and traditions, which would then be depicted throughout the Student Union. I am so happy I was asked—it’s not unusual that an archivist would be involved in the branding. It’s clear that this campus has a true interest in preserving and promoting its history.

With so many resources to choose from and such a broad task at hand, what kind of process did you use?

The committee decided that the central themes should be legacy, discovery, experience, and leadership. I started searching our University Archives for all of the historical images of UT that reflect those themes, including important traditions on campus. Within those themes, we decided to highlight student life, academics, colleges, firsts on campus, technology, and achievements. Some of the firsts you’ll see featured are the first Torch Night, the first women students, and the first African American students. My department, including dedicated student workers, spent two entire summers scanning almost 5,000 historical images in those categories and adding metadata to each one to expedite discovery when images are needed for future projects. We then added the images to a database that is shared with campus and set some aside to eventually be added to Volopedia, our new online encyclopedia of UT history. When we had an inventory of images highlighting enduring traditions, we filled in any gaps that would help us tell a true, full story of UT.

It's hard to distill 225 years of history into one concise and cohesive story, but I feel that we did a good job. We ended up with 500 UT points of interest across the campus. We then added the images to a database that is shared with campus and set some aside to eventually be added to Volopedia, our new online encyclopedia of UT history. When we had an inventory of images highlighting enduring traditions, we filled in any gaps that would help us tell a true, full story of UT.

Why, in your opinion, is it important to include items from our University Archives in campus spaces?

I hope our work helps strengthen UT traditions. Sharing our history in this student-centric space allows us to pass on a legacy and teach new students and visitors what it really means to be a Tennessee Volunteer. It’s a gift to past students and to current students, who will return to campus in the future and see their own era depicted along the halls of the Student Union. We want to do things like this in all of the new building projects on campus. And now, after digitizing so many of the historical images, we have a head start on the process.

What kind of reactions have you received from people?

During the planning process, people loved seeing the images from the archives. It’s fun to learn what people remember from their experiences on campus. When alumni find out how much work we have put into preserving university history, they’re tickled to know that their time as a student wasn’t forgotten and that the images are being digitized. They are often surprised and pleased that we have an entire department in the library devoted to documenting and keeping those things safe.

I have also spoken at the national conference of archivists about my role in showcasing university history in new campus building projects and how they could apply that in small and large ways at their home institutions. I’m excited and flattered that other archivists across the country have asked about our process and are now trying to replicate our model at their own institutions.

Have there been any unexpected byproducts of this project?

I established contacts in each college, and I was able to show them how to preserve and research their own history, now and in the future. Over the course of this project, we brought in more than 2,000 boxes of artifacts and collection material from different departments and colleges for preservation—in addition to the 4,000 we already had processed in University Archives. It was rewarding to be able to help people across campus understand their own portion of the larger UT story and to also make them aware of what we’re doing today needs to be preserved too, so that we have a record to look back on 100 or more years from now.

The images we were able to digitize as part of this project were really important ones that we wanted to digitally preserve and make accessible even before we started the Student Union planning. Completing that part of the project makes incorporating historical images and information into future campus publications, signage, social media posts, and building projects an achievable goal.

Will you be adding anything else to the Student Union?

One of the elements that is really special to me is that, in all of the timelines and spaces where we referenced UT history, we built in room to add the history we’re creating now. We wanted to make it easy to change and update, so we also added digital signs and space for digital exhibits. This project is not static—it’s a living process. I was just really honored to be a part of this project and hope everyone enjoys all the hard work that the many, many project participants put forth to make the new Student Union a warm and welcoming place for years to come.
Betsey B. Creekmore possesses an encyclopedic knowledge of University of Tennessee history and traditions—knowledge she honed through four decades of overseeing the university’s spaces and facilities. As the UT campus grew and improved, Creekmore was a part of each campus master plan and several major building projects.

Creekmore served in a number of positions in the chancellor’s and president’s offices before retiring and being named associate vice chancellor emerita in September 2012.

Over the years, Creekmore assumed the role of unofficial university historian, on call to local media to answer questions about UT’s history, campus construction projects, or the origins of UT traditions.

It could be said that Creekmore inherited her love of the university and interest in local history. She is the great-niece of James Dickason Hoskins, who served as president of the university from 1934 to 1946. Her mother, also named Betsey Beeler Creekmore, was a prominent local historian and the author of several books on our region, including *Knoxville, Our Fair City* and *Arrows to Atoms: The Story of East Tennessee*.

When the university celebrated its 200th anniversary in 1994, Creekmore’s exhaustive knowledge of UT history and her planning skills made her the obvious choice to head the bicentennial steering committee. The yearlong bicentennial celebration included a full agenda of events highlighting UT’s distinguished past and unlimited future. Creekmore also wrote the text for a coffee-table book commemorating UT’s 200th year. *Tennessee: A Celebration of 200 Years of the University* is filled with historical and contemporary photographs of university life.

Following the bicentennial, Creekmore continued to transcribe facts, figures, biographies, and narratives that synopsize UT’s history. Several years ago, she approached staff at the UT Libraries with a proposal to create a searchable online database of this historical record. Thus was born Volopedia, which launched in August under the auspices of the UT Libraries’ online imprint, Newfound Press.

Creekmore understands the crucial role of libraries in preserving the record of the past. Throughout her UT career she diligently deposited important official documents in the university archives, and she and her family have gifted family papers and treasured heirlooms to the Libraries’ Special Collections. Creekmore has been a longtime generous supporter of the Libraries and other areas of the university such as the College of Law. (Her father, Frank B. Creekmore, was an attorney as well as an Army judge advocate during World War II. Her twin brother, David Dickason Creekmore, was a Knoxville attorney, Knox County General Sessions judge, and graduate of the Judge Advocate General’s School.)

In appreciation of her exceptionally generous support of the UT Libraries, the Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives was named in her honor in 2017. Creekmore has established a deferred gift that will provide continued funding for the archives. The substantial endowment will support acquisition, preservation, and processing of archival collections far into the future.

She was for many years a caretaker of the university’s architectural heritage. But her transformative gift to the Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives, which will advance the university’s prestige as a center of scholarship, may well prove to be an even more lasting legacy.

Martha Rudolph is information specialist in marketing and communications at the UT Libraries.
A few years ago, the UT Libraries undertook an ambitious digital project: creating an online encyclopedia of university history and traditions. The project was initiated by Associate Vice Chancellor Emerita Betsey B. Creekmore, who assembled a comprehensive panorama of UT history. She brought the project to Newfound Press, the UT Libraries’ digital imprint, and the aptly named Volopedia slowly began to take shape. Her original 5,000 entries were proofread and edited by Jayne Smith and Marie Garrett, longtime UT Libraries employees.

We are excited to announce that Volopedia is now available at volopedia.lib.utk.edu. Appropriately, the launch of Volopedia coincides with the campuswide celebration of the university’s 225th year. We invite you to revel in our heritage by exploring this new UT resource.

Volopedia is a user-friendly portal to biographical and topical summaries on university history and traditions. Wherever possible, we add images and other digitized resources to encyclopedia entries. Keyword searches, alphabetical browsing, and date-range queries allow users to quickly find information on topics of interest.

Our online encyclopedia is the authoritative source for information on UT, from the founding of Blount College in 1794 to present-day university activities. It compiles the best and most current scholarship that exists on university topics—knowledge not easily found in other resources.

By design, Volopedia will always be a work in progress. New topical and biographical entries will be published regularly and vigorously fact-checked by library staff and faculty. Even after publication, the life cycle of an entry continues. Individual entries, and sometimes whole sections, will be periodically revisited and revised. Entries may be adjusted for style or factual errors, or they may be entirely rewritten based on new information or evolution of the topic. Ongoing development of the website will include visual and functional enhancements. Our goal for Volopedia is that it offers an enjoyable and rewarding research experience for many years to come.

Let us hear from you! Volopedia readers are invited to submit comments, suggestions, and links or citations to additional resources. To report factual errors or alert us when new information becomes available, email the University Archives at archives@utk.edu.

Alesha Shumar is university archivist, assistant head of the Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives, and associate professor at the UT Libraries.
Diversity and inclusion efforts in academic libraries are opportunities to grow as an organization, enrich our mutual experiences, and transform libraries into places that serve the needs of a modern campus and a global community.

At the UT Libraries we define diversity as a variety of shared or individual characteristics, while inclusion describes efforts to encourage participation by all individuals and groups.

Our libraries have been part of many noteworthy diversity benchmarks in the university's history. We recognize that diversity and inclusion are realized only through ongoing commitment and practice, and we are intentional about building our own skills for fostering equity. Our efforts are reflected in our services, collections, instruction, and spaces.

LEADERS IN THE LIBRARIES

The UT Libraries’ Diversity Committee is dedicated to fostering a diverse and inclusive campus environment marked by integrity and civility. The committee worked from a broad definition of diversity to formalize a statement of principles in which we affirm our commitment to creating an inclusive community grounded in respect and appreciation for individual differences. The committee offers programs and resources that enhance knowledge and encourage understanding. One such program, the Lunch and Learn series, hosts facilitated lunchtime discussions around diversity and inclusion topics within the theme of “Difficult Conversations.” The discussions are open to students, staff, and faculty. Past topics include gender and politics, the life of the student-athlete, and coming out. In 2018, the university honored our committee with the Dr. Marva Rudolph Diversity and Interculturalism Unit Excellence Award.

The UT Libraries’ Diversity Librarian Residency program, one of the first in the country, advances the careers of individuals from groups that are traditionally underrepresented within librarianship. The program brings ethnic and cultural diversity to the Libraries, the profession, and the campus. Residents receive multiyear appointments that offer early work experience in a variety of areas as well as support for research in information sciences. Since 2003, the program has boosted the careers of 14 librarians from underrepresented groups. Its success can be attributed to ongoing assessment aimed at keeping the program relevant.

MAKING CLASSROOM AND LIBRARY SPACES INCLUSIVE

In fall 2018, the Libraries launched a Cultural Competency and Inclusive Teaching Certificate program. A collaboration with UT’s Teaching and Learning Innovation team, the pilot program helps faculty and staff model inclusion in their interactions with students as well as creating opportunities for greater collaboration with colleagues across the campus. Eighteen individuals have completed the certificate requirements by attending events related to diversity and inclusion and sharing their reflections online. Participants reported that they were inspired to take action for modeling inclusivity, and they have made thoughtful recommendations for continuing the conversation through additional programming.

Recognizing the unique perspective and life experience of each individual is critical to creating library spaces that are welcoming, useful, and accessible to the university community. In partnership with the university’s Student Disability Services, the UT Libraries hosts programming for staff on accessibility etiquette and universal design—creating products and environments to be usable by as many people as possible without adaptation. To ensure that our spaces are serving our entire community, we recently installed new automatic doors at the main entrance; updated our adaptive technology space in the Commons, which provides 24-hour access to assistive technologies; and created a dedicated lactation room.

FOSTERING GROWTH

We value and appreciate the variety of backgrounds and experiences that students bring to campus. Our librarians are dedicated to easing the transition to university life for first-year, transfer, and international students as well as student veterans—and to supporting them throughout their careers at UT. The Community College Partners Group connects UT librarians with local community college librarians to promote conversations and collaborations in support of transfer students. The UT Libraries and the
Office of Undergraduate Research sponsor the Discovery Living and Learning Community to provide hands-on undergraduate research opportunities to students from all disciplines. Participants live together in university housing, are matched with faculty mentors in their fields of study, and meet with librarians for a weekly class. As part of this initiative, we partner with ASPIRE (Appalachian Students Promoting the Integration of Research in Education), which awards National Science Foundation–funded scholarships to Appalachian high school seniors who plan to major in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics at UT.

REACHING BEYOND CAMPUS

Through outreach efforts, the Libraries can be proactive in promoting diversity and inclusion beyond our walls. Big Orange STEM Saturday (BOSS) is a UT Libraries event presented annually for high school and new undergraduate students interested in pursuing STEM majors. BOSS provides opportunities for underrepresented students to attend information sessions, interact with UT faculty and students, and meet scientists and employers from the community. Big Orange STEM Saturday for Educators (EduBOSS) is a professional development opportunity that helps educators in Tennessee promote STEM majors in a K-12 environment. In collaboration with our local TRIO program, EduBOSS also provides STEM education literacy and resources for teachers working with first-generation students, low-income students, and students with disabilities. (TRIO is a US Department of Education initiative to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.)

MAKING AND PRESERVING HISTORY

Original scholarship is an area in which the Libraries’ contributions to diversity and inclusion reach well beyond our campus. The Voices Out Loud project is a research initiative of librarians Donna Braquet and Kat Brooks. Two years in the planning and the first of its kind in this region, the project launched this year with a mission to collect, preserve, and share East Tennessee’s LGBTQ+ history and culture. The project invites LGBTQ+ people who have connections to East Tennessee to record their stories in the form of oral histories to be hosted by the UT Libraries Digital Collections. The project also collects memorabilia and ephemera related to East Tennessee LGBTQ+ culture such as newsletters, photographs, videos, newspaper clippings, T-shirts, buttons, posters, and flyers. Collections range from the papers of ARK (AIDS Response Knoxville) to a mid-’90s Tennessee newswEEKLY called Query to photographs of Knoxville’s first Pride parade. The collections will be preserved with the assistance of our Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives. Voices Out Loud aims to engage the community by sharing materials and hosting exhibits, panel discussions, and educational programs on how to best preserve historical artifacts. The first collection of oral history recordings is available at digital.lib.utk.edu/voloh.

We are proud of our record of meaningful impact across the campus and beyond the borders of our university, and we will continue to be proactive in our approach to diversity and inclusion. Being responsive to perceived needs, however, is just a start. We are always looking for ways to improve and evolve to meet current and future needs. The UT Libraries plays an important role in the social development and intellectual success of students at our university. We believe our embodiment of the values of equity and inclusion is essential both to individual success and to institutional excellence.

Donna Braquet is librarian for biology, child and family studies, and women, gender and sexuality studies, and professor at the UT Libraries.

Thura Mack is coordinator of community learning services and diversity programs and professor at the UT Libraries.

Anna Sandelli is head of teaching and learning programs and assistant professor at the UT Libraries.

Teresa Walker is associate dean and professor at the UT Libraries.
The Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives was fortunate to acquire the papers of distinguished UT alum and critically acclaimed cartoonist Paige Braddock.

An ample collection (nine linear feet) of black-and-white pen-and-ink drawings, cover art, watercolors, print proofs, and thousands of original pen-and-pencil panel drawings, the comic archive covers Braddock’s work from the early days of her career through 2018.

A majority of the artwork pertains to Braddock’s award-nominated comic strip, Jane’s World. In addition to Braddock’s work, the collection contains original art by other notable cartoonists—some with personal inscriptions. Her papers join those of fellow cartoonists Charlie Daniel and Ed Gamble.

Paige Braddock was born in Bakersfield, California, but due to her father’s job had moved 17 times by the time she started high school. She spent much of her childhood in Mississippi, attending schools that did not provide art programs. But she passed the long, hot summer afternoons teaching herself to draw, and by the time she reached the age of seven, she had decided she would be a cartoonist.

Starting with stick figures, she moved on to her first character, Captain Lightning, an accident-prone superhero. Over time, her cast of cartoon characters grew. As she traveled from place to place, she quickly discovered that her imaginary friends always stayed by her side.

In her junior year of high school in Brevard, North Carolina, she published her first cartoon, Bart Winkle, in the local newspaper. David Graue, a cartoonist who was working on the popular strip Alley Oop, lived in the area and invited her to his studio. Serving as an early mentor, he introduced her to the tools and methods of the craft. He also questioned her decision to feature only male characters in her comics, encouraging her to incorporate her personal experiences.

In 1985, Braddock earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Tennessee. She credits UT’s School of Art with teaching her how to turn her natural talent into her livelihood. A well-rounded education in marketing, publishing, and journalism assisted her throughout her career. During her time at UT, she worked for the student-run newspaper, the Daily Beacon, where she produced a comic strip titled Sadie featuring a sexually ambiguous female character. Years later, in 2014, she would return to UT to accept an Accomplished Alumni Award in recognition of her success and distinction in her field.
Over the 12 years following her graduation, Braddock worked as an illustrator for several newspapers, starting with a part-time job at the Knoxville News Sentinel. She shared an office with editorial cartoonist Charlie Daniel, who coached her in their shared profession. She later worked for the Orlando Sentinel, the Chicago Tribune, and the Atlanta Constitution.

Throughout this time, Braddock maintained a relationship with her mentor, Dave Graue. In 1985, he introduced her to Sara Gillespie, the editor at United Features Syndicate who also served as Charles Schulz’s comic editor. After Gillespie sent samples of Braddock’s work to Schulz, he responded with a letter and the gift of an original drawing of a Peanuts strip. The editors, however, declined to grant Braddock a syndication contract for Sadie. Although they praised her artwork, they suggested that she further develop her narrative storylines.

She did just that, and in 1999 Braddock moved to California to serve as the creative director at Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates, overseeing the visual and editorial direction for all Peanuts licensed products worldwide. Braddock also illustrated several Peanuts children’s books and designed the Snoopy postage stamp issued in April 2001. After Schulz’s death, Braddock was selected to take his place as head of the enterprise. Working in an environment where cartoons were taken seriously helped her further develop her craft.

Braddock never stopped working on her own cartoons. It was during her time at the Chicago Tribune, in 1991, that Jane’s World was born. The paper was looking for a regular comic feature for their new Women News section. Braddock submitted a one-panel comic titled See Jane. Although it was not accepted, she was intrigued with the idea and kept working on it. She transformed See Jane into a four-panel strip called Jane’s World.
Jennifer Benedetto Beals is director of the Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives and associate professor at the UT Libraries.

The animated world created by Braddock did not fit comic stereotypes. The lead character was a young gay woman living in a trailer with her roommate. The supporting characters were also gay, and over time Braddock continued to push the boundaries of comic-book storylines. Jane’s World appeared on the web in 1998 and in 2001 became the first gay-themed comic to receive online distribution by a national media syndicate (United Media Comics) in the United States. Braddock also launched her own publishing company that year, Girl Twirl Comics, to make Jane’s World available in bookstores.

In 2006, Braddock was nominated for an Eisner Award, the highest honor in the comic industry, for best writer/artist in the humor category. Her novel Jane’s World: The Case of the Mail Order Bride was released in 2016 by Bold Strokes Books.

Braddock has published a number of other comic works. In 2008 she co-created the science fiction graphic novel series The Martian Confederacy with writer Jason McNamara. In 2015, she began publishing a line of graphic novels for children, the Stinky Cecil series, with Andrews McMeel Publishing.

In 2018, after completing a 20-year run, Braddock said goodbye to Jane’s World with an anthology, Love Letters to Jane’s World, released by Lion Forge Comics. In 2019, it was selected as a Lambda Literary finalist for best LGBTQ graphic novel.

As Braddock completed one chapter of her career with Love Letters to Jane’s World, she decided it was the right time to find a permanent home for her papers. We are honored that she chose the University of Tennessee Libraries. In addition to further diversifying our collections, Braddock’s archive will be of interest to scholars in many areas including art, journalism, creative writing, and LGBTQ studies. There is rich primary resource material here for use in classroom instruction, digital and virtual exhibits, and research projects. The thousands of drawings—including examples of the same piece in different stages of production, from sketch to completed work—provide insight into the creative process and the finer points of publishing.

And there are still more chapters to come.

Jennifer Benedetto Beals is director of the Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives and associate professor at the UT Libraries.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:
The land on which we live and work is part of the traditional territory of the Tsalagi peoples (now Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians) and Tsoyaha peoples (Yuchi, Muscogee Creek).*

The UT Libraries recently acquired the papers of Marilou Awiakta, adding a new and distinct voice to our primary materials on Appalachian and Cherokee culture.

Marilou Awiakta—listed as Marilou Bonham Thompson in some of her writings—is a Cherokee poet, storyteller, and essayist. She is of Cherokee and Scots-Irish descent, with Cherokee ancestry on both sides of her family tree. Her roots in Appalachia—mostly in East Tennessee—can be traced back to 1730.

Awiakta has said, “My culture has three heritages: Cherokee, Appalachian, and the atom.” She was born January 24, 1936, in Knoxville. When she was nine years old her family moved to Oak Ridge, the fully fenced-in Secret City that was then a production site for the atomic bomb.

by Shaina V. Destine
The poet received her name, Awiakta, meaning “eye of the deer,” from her grandfather. “He said, ‘You have the nature of a deer. You’re a keen listener, gentle and very quick. But I don’t think you should use that name until you’ve grown into it.’ At age 40, after talking it over with the elders and my family, I moved my work over to the name Awiakta.”

Awiakta graduated magna cum laude from UT in 1958 with bachelor’s degrees in English and French. She went on to live abroad, establish organizations dedicated to the betterment of Cherokee peoples, facilitate poetry workshops nationwide for people with varying backgrounds—including formerly incarcerated women—and write nationally recognized books that showcase her life experiences.

Abiding Appalachia: Where Mountain and Atom Meet, released in 1978, details her experience living in Oak Ridge as an Appalachian Cherokee during the creation of the atomic bomb. Her 1983 children’s book, Rising Fawn and the Fire Mystery, tells the story of a young Choctaw girl swept up in the Indian removals of the 1830s. Selu: Seeking the Corn-Mother’s Wisdom, published in 1993, is a collection of poems, stories, and essays about indigenous values and wisdom. She received the Distinguished Tennessee Writer Award in 1989 and the Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award from Shepherd College in 2000.

Awiakta’s work tells the stories that many of us have heard while living in Knoxville—Oak Ridge, the atom bomb, religion and spirituality, and old Knoxville—but through a different lens. Too often we are told these stories from the same perspectives, in the same voices. The resulting homogeneity is not only mundane—it’s also limited.

And now, a few miles away, we had a new frontier.
Daddy went first, in ’43—leaving at dawn, coming home at dark and saying nothing of his work except,
“It’s at Y-12, in Bear Creek Valley.”
The mystery deepened.
The hum grew stronger.
And I longed to go.
Oak Ridge had a magic sound—
They said bulldozers could take down a hill before your eyes and houses sized by alphabet came precut and boxed, like blocks, so builders could put up hundreds at a time.
And they made walks of boards and streets of dirt (mud, if it rained) and a chain-link fence around it all to keep the secret.

(Excerpt from “Genesis,” Marilou Awiakta)

The Libraries must collect the stories of the many different people who inhabit this region.
When people talk or write about Appalachia—its people, its cities, its history, and its culture—the region is frequently painted with a very broad brush. The images are often negative caricatures, not reality.

By collecting the stories of all the communities that inhabit this region, libraries can help change the narrative. In fact, that work is the express duty of librarians.

The American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights states that “the publicly supported library provides free, equal, and equitable access to information for all people of the community the library serves.” The community we serve at the UT Libraries includes Native American peoples, and the land that we occupy is Cherokee territory.
Academically, a more diversified collection benefits all of our patrons and researchers. The more, and more varied, information we provide researchers, the better the quality of research they can conduct for the betterment of different disciplines. As a top research library, we aspire to be a leader in supporting broad collections that reflect different cultural perspectives. We are grateful to Marilou Awiakta for entrusting her papers to the UT Libraries. We hope her gift will draw further donations that broaden our special collections. There are many more voices to be heard.

Shaina V. Destine is humanities librarian and research assistant professor at the UT Libraries.


*Territory acknowledgements bear witness to our nation’s history of colonialism and the systematic removal of Native American peoples from their ancestral lands.

Rare Books and Manuscripts on the Cherokee

Scholars of Cherokee history will find abundant research material in the Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives. That includes many one-of-a-kind documents that date from the decades prior to the Cherokee’s forced removal on the Trail of Tears. Notable original documents in our manuscript collections include correspondence and accounts maintained by Return Jonathan Meigs as an Indian agent to the Cherokee Nation, a diary kept by a removal agent in the years leading up to the Trail of Tears, and a bound volume of letters assembled by Principal Chief William Holland Thomas while in the nation’s capital fighting for claims of the Eastern Cherokee.

Other rarities among our historical materials on the Cherokee are antique maps such as A New Map of the Cherokee Nation with the names of the towns and rivers they are situated on (London, 1760?), a near complete run (1829–1834) of the dual-language newspaper the Cherokee Phoenix, early 19th-century Cherokee-language hymnals and scriptures, and TSVLKÌI SQCLVCLV: A Cherokee Spelling Book, printed in Knoxville for the Brainerd Mission near present-day Chattanooga. The UT Libraries’ copy of the speller is one of only three known to remain from the 1819 printing.

Read more at volumes.lib.utk.edu/lbr/cherokee.
Have you ever found yourself impressed by the work of someone younger and less experienced? At the UT Libraries, we are humbled by this feeling on a regular basis when we encounter the creativity, ingenuity, and drive of UT students. Take, for instance, Garrett Jones.

Jones is a tinkerer, a problem solver, a maker, and a regular at Pendergrass Library on the agriculture campus. He enjoys engineering concepts and working on small machines, so he started out at UT pursuing a mechanical engineering degree on the opposite (east) side of Rocky Top. After learning how much indoor lab work was required and realizing how much energy he gains from working outdoors, he shifted his studies. Eventually he decided on an agricultural systems technology concentration, where he knew his talents would grow and thrive. Jones told us he’s “been in the dirt for a long time,” having grown up working in construction with his father. This love for working outdoors began in his hometown of McMinnville, Tennessee, which—thanks to the hundreds of plant-growing businesses located within a 10-mile radius—is sometimes referred to as the nursery capital of the world.

Craving even more outdoor time, Jones joined the UT Soil Judging Team, which competes nationally to identify, evaluate, classify, and describe soil profiles—a skill useful to a number of professions. Assessing soil properties helps in producing more food to meet the needs of a growing population and in planning for construction projects that involve moving soil or building upon it. Combined with evaluation of water tables and other environmental factors, soil evaluations can even help prevent disasters—for instance, by determining how soils will react in a 100-year flood or other destructive natural phenomena.

Jones regularly made use of the resources in Pendergrass Library for his classes, visiting so frequently that he began to note the technical tools offered in addition to the plentiful books, databases, and computers. A lifelong tinkerer, he was drawn to the 3D printers, which—unlike most on campus—are open to all students. Most users start out by downloading and printing a ready-made design. But Jones has a knack for working with computers as well as experience with computer-aided design, or CAD, from his engineering background. He also works part-time in IT for UT Facilities Services. So the design process seemed to come naturally to him.

As soon as Jones realized the possibilities, he had an idea.

A typical day on the Soil Judging Team involves carrying a bucket of tools into a field and wetting a handful of soil to feel the texture and observe the colors. The goal is to determine the percentage of sand, silt, and clay in the soil to narrow down the soil type. A triangular chart called a soil texture triangle assists in these evaluations. The sides of the triangle represent the three soil components—sand,
silt, and clay—and each side has a scale from zero to 100 percent. Estimating the percentage of each component and tracing imaginary lines to the point of convergence within the triangle reveals the soil texture classification, such as sandy loam or silt clay.

Soil scientists around the world use sheets printed with this diagram—sometimes laminated, sometimes not. One of Jones’s teammates attests to the feeling that “it rains every time we’re out there.” The result is often a soggy, unusable chart.

Jones was inspired to design a 3D version of the chart that could stand up to the rough conditions in which they work. Since they usually carry the chart in a bucket of tools, the goal was for the 3D version to withstand being knocked around, but also for the lines and symbols on the chart to be legible even when covered in mud. This led to the creation of Jones’s first custom 3D print submission at Pendergrass.

Jones told us that his first version was a simple triangle with only a few lines, and the design was “all messed up.” That’s when Richard Sexton, the IT technologist at Pendergrass, stepped in to ask a few questions and provide some guidance on design modifications. Together, they went through roughly seven prototypes to get to the current version, and Jones is finally happy with the result. Changes included switching from recessed letters to raised, increasing the overall size, and adding the numbers along each side.

Jones shared a lesson he’s learned across multiple disciplines: you really have to learn the limitations of the tool you’re working with through trial and error. Rapid prototyping is one of the beauties of 3D printing. You can pause the print as you’re watching it happen, edit the rest of the design, and continue the print to determine whether you’ve fixed the problem. For Jones, it’s a major improvement over sending the design off for injection molding and waiting weeks to find out if the prototype is right.

Jones was even more motivated to refine the project because his team was headed to the National Collegiate Soils Contest in California. Once the prototype—rendered in UT orange—was nearly perfect, Jones shared it with his advisor and team coach, Andrew Sherfy, who has also served as coach of the US Soils Team for international championships. Sherfy was impressed, and Jones printed a copy of the 3D chart for every member of his team in time for nationals. “Nobody else out there is going to have something like this,” he said with a grin shortly before the competition. The team was building on a win at nationals in 2018, and they had just taken second place in the regional competition.
After competition and finals wrapped up, Jones reported back: “In California, we got 10th place overall and second place in the team judging. Those that competed carried their own triangles during competition, much to the jealousy of other teams with only paper triangles!” As far as Jones and his collaborators know, no one else has made a 3D version of the soil texture triangle, a tool that has been used universally for more than 50 years.

Jones chose to share his design so anyone can download and print the tool for their own use. His coach and other professors in the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science have expressed interest in printing copies for use in the classroom and field. Jones said he shared his design because “science is advanced by learning from other’s creations and improving upon them, but to do so it must be accessible by all.” He expressed his hope that “someone out there will be inspired to create something of their own after using this tool.”

Jones has printed several other items and has ideas in mind for more. He may even invest in his own 3D printer, which he feels is the natural next step. With access to his own printer, after graduation he can continue creating parts to make unusable items—such as the small engines he enjoys repairing—useful again.

Word is spreading around campus about Jones’s work in this area. It is clear that he has a passion for making and fixing things, but the soil triangle and the time he gets to spend working outside hold a special place in his heart. You might recognize him walking through the library by the homemade soil triangle patch in the center of his backpack.

Jones is scheduled to graduate next December, and we can’t wait to see what he comes up with next.

View or download Jones’s design at thingiverse.com/thing:3484972.
Beginning in 1968, anyone with a spare four dollars could purchase a year’s subscription to The Watchdog, an eight-page weekly newspaper published by Knoxville grocery magnate and local political operative Cas Walker. The grocerman promised his subscribers that “The Watchdog will be delivered to your home weekly to assure you the unvarnished, naked truth.”

In 1924, after brief stints as a logger, a farmhand, and a bootlegger, the 21-year-old Walker departed his hometown of Sevierville for Knoxville. By April of that year he had opened his first cash grocery store. Walker learned the grocery business from his father, who had once operated a general store on English Mountain. The young Walker proved to be a hard worker and quickly demonstrated a flair for combining business acumen with garish showmanship.

One of the more outlandish examples of his early promotional gambits was a regular Saturday event of tossing live fryer chickens off the roofs of his stores into the scramble of customers below: “Catch it and it’s yours.” He later expanded his repertoire of promotional gimmicks to include greased pig contests and free dog dips, both of which were met with an enthusiastic reception from customers.

Within five years of opening his first grocery store, Walker launched The Cas Walker Farm and Home Hour, a radio variety show that expanded his marketing reach to customers and afforded a platform for advancing his right-of-center political agenda. The show remained a fixture on local radio until the early 1950s, when it was adapted to the emerging medium of commercial television. During its run, it featured such emerging bluegrass and country music stars as...
Bill Monroe, Jimmy Martin, Roy Acuff, Chet Atkins, and Carl Smith, as well as helping to launch the careers of Dolly Parton and the Everly Brothers.

Through an offering of free musical entertainment, bargain-priced groceries, and hyper-conservative political commentary, Walker successfully established himself as the champion of “the little guy.”

Despite portraying himself as an outsider and an underdog, Walker was a longtime political force in Knoxville. He served as a city councilman for nearly 30 years. He was elected mayor in 1946, but his behavior was so uproarious that within a few months he was ousted from office in a recall election. While serving on city council, he even engaged in a fistfight with fellow councilman J. S. Cooper—a photograph of the incident appeared in Life Magazine.

It was The Watchdog that enabled Walker to meld promotion of his grocery business with the promise to deliver his version of “the unvarnished, naked truth.” Branded as “The All American Paper for the All American City,” The Watchdog was projected as the moral compass and commonsense political advisor for its readership. However, the paper’s feature articles, often cast in the tone of substantive investigative reporting, were frequently vague and insinuating and were interspersed with such pithy throwaways as “Never Trust a Communist” and “Think How Much You Could Save if Politicians Didn’t Waste Your Money.”

Early issues of The Watchdog featured a regular column, “The Sunday School” by O. E. Turner of the Tennessee School of Religion, an organization that offered religious instruction to students at the University of Tennessee. Walker’s newspaper refrained from commentary on current religious issues but did project an anti-intellectualism that buttressed the religious perspectives of more fundamentalist readers. The Watchdog described J. D. Salinger’s The Catcher in the Rye as “filth and trash.” Knoxville’s Highlander Center, which promoted social change and hosted civil rights activists, was one of Walker’s frequent targets. The Watchdog characterized Highlander as a den of subversives demonstrating “communistic leanings” and “known to teach its members how to start riots, how to cause trouble, how to tell lies, how to burn and destroy.”

Universities were likewise deemed to be havens for all manner of renegades. “Let’s check the character qualifications as well as the academic qualifications of college students. College is no place for hoodlums, dope peddlers, dope addicts, and intellectual misfits in society.” We also learn from The Watchdog that “cock fighting is much more humane and more sporting than shooting dove and quail and deer.”

In addition to promoting Walker’s grocery business—“Don’t say I shop at Cas Walker’s. Say I SAVE at Cas Walker’s.”—the paper was not above promoting the self-styled celebrity status of Walker himself. The Farm and Home Hour is described as being “emceed by Cas Walker, the ‘most listened to’ TV star in East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Southeastern Kentucky and Western North Carolina.”

The paper likewise pitched the occasional product that Walker himself claimed to have discovered. The most popular, his miracle SUPRA-DERM SALVE—“available at any Cas Walker’s Superstore or mail check or money order for $1.25”—is promoted as a sure cure for “itchy skin condition, Hemmorhoid’s [sic], athlete’s foot, acne or eczema” that “also relieves ear canker in dogs.”

Walker began publishing The Watchdog sometime in 1968. The newspaper continued until the early 1980s, when it folded under pressure from lawsuits. This fate is not surprising considering some of the newspaper’s more dubious practices. One ploy was to publish the names, addresses, and photographs of individuals alongside a request: “If you know the whereabouts of the following people call Cas Walker’s Security Office.” The implication was that the individuals listed were guilty of pilfering from a Cas Walker store.

Surviving copies of The Watchdog have become rare items. Until recently, the UT Libraries could boast of owning only four issues. This year, 37 issues were acquired and added to the Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives. The earliest of these is dated June 27, 1968, and the latest November 26, 1981. Individual issues were marked by date of publication, but volume and issue numbers were not assigned. Consequently, it is not possible to extrapolate backward to determine the date of the first issue. While Special Collections continues its quest to acquire a complete run of The Watchdog, the 41 issues now in our rare books collection nevertheless afford researchers rich insights into the marketing savvy and political shrewdness of one of Knoxville’s most influential citizens.

Ken Wise is director of the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Project and professor at the UT Libraries.
Students, faculty, and staff now have free access to a vintage card catalog cabinet full of vegetable, herb, and flower seed packets, along with information resources to inform gardening activities including seed-saving practices.

Seed libraries started as community outreach programs at public libraries, but they are gaining momentum in higher education as innovative initiatives that support food access, sustainability, and experiential learning while strengthening community engagement. Knoxville is home to the only two academic seed libraries in the state: one here at UT, and the other at our partner institution, Pellissippi State Community College.

Pellissippi’s seed library was founded by Holly Dean and Jennifer Mezick, who are both now UT librarians. Dean brought her experience and ideas and formed our new seed library with the help of fellow UT librarian Sarah Johnson.

We opened the UT Seed Library to students, staff, faculty, and alumni in April during National Library Week. The grand opening drew more than 200 individuals, mostly students, who came to learn about the seed library and plant a seed to take home in one of the biodegradable pots we supplied for the occasion. Immediately following the event, more than 80 individuals checked out seeds from the collection, and the number of seed library patrons continues to grow as more people become aware of the collection. Students who come by to check out seeds have shared their excitement at being able to try gardening for the first time or to continue a pursuit they thought they would have to leave behind when they came to college. Some have also expressed gratitude for the ability to supplement their diet with healthy food options while living on a tight budget. This last point is an important component of the UT Seed Library’s mission to facilitate food access and help alleviate food insecurity on campus and in our communities. Studies conducted at institutions of higher education across the nation reveal rates of student food insecurity ranging from 21 to 59 percent.

By sharing information resources, hosting events, and integrating the seed library into university courses, we are working to raise awareness of food insecurity on college campuses and remove the social stigma that surrounds it. As we provide a real-world context for discussion of issues
such as local food insecurity, sustainable agriculture, global poverty, and climate change, our students are inspired to engage with their communities and develop methods for overcoming these global challenges.

During the 2018–19 academic year, we hosted seed sorting parties for UT Libraries employees to help prepare the collection by breaking commercial seed packets into smaller packets that provide enough seeds for “borrowers” to grow two to three of each plant. These events enhance community ownership of the collection and promote the mission and direction of the UT Seed Library. Students were also invited to help sort seeds as a part of a special topics First-Year Studies course, Gardening for Life, in which they learn about various campus and community organizations using gardening to support healthy sustainable communities. Students in another section of the course transplanted sprouts into the seed library’s garden bed at the campus urban garden, known as the Grow Lab—a space used for workshops and course projects.

The UT Seed Library will continue to support courses by providing seeds for experiential learning projects and to support research projects that will provide additional real-world context for student learning. Through the seed library initiative, we continue to grow the Libraries’ connections throughout the University of Tennessee community and strengthen our efforts to be leaders in promoting student success.

For more information about planting your seeds visit: libguides.utk.edu/seedlibrary
Three unique agricultural publications from University of Tennessee Extension and the Agricultural Experiment Station have been preserved as digital collections. These publications—news releases, circulars, and reports, created between 1922 and 1990—contain historical information about agriculture in Tennessee. Despite their significance, the publications’ contents were difficult to discover in searches since they were not digitized. Many physical issues were brittle and also needed preservation.

In 2018, the UT Libraries received a grant from Project Ceres, a collaboration between three organizations—the US Agricultural Information Network, the Agriculture Network Information Collaborative, and the Center for Research Libraries—that supports preservation and digitization of primary serial collections vital to study of agricultural history and economics. We selected the historical agricultural titles deemed most in need of preservation to create three new digital collections. The new collections are fully searchable, so discovering topics of interest has been greatly simplified.

The Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station (today called AgResearch) was established by the Board of Trustees in 1882 and was reorganized under the Hatch Act of 1887. The first county agricultural extension agents in Tennessee were appointed in 1910, and the Division of Extension was established under the Smith-Lever Act in 1914. The two units disseminate agricultural research conducted at experiment stations and provide outreach and research-based education to Tennesseans to improve agriculture, health, homes, and communities. Since their establishment, the Agricultural Experiment Station and UT Extension have published and distributed bulletins, reports, circulars, and other serials to Tennesseans to support these goals.
The Tennessee Farm News Collection (digital.lib.utk.edu/tfn) is a series of weekly news releases published by the UT Extension Service under various titles between 1921 and 1989. The target audience was local media across the state, who often reported extension news. Market prices, farm facts, farm shows, and updates about 4-H clubs are some of the topics covered. Training courses and agricultural development programs offered by UT are also frequently mentioned.

The Extension Special Circulars Collection (digital.lib.utk.edu/utesc) contains bulletins from the UT Extension Service dating from 1925 through 1968. Each circular has a unique title and topic; circulars vary in size and length. Topics include building plans, home gardening and horticultural advice, rural engineering information, clothing and home management, animal husbandry, and farm management.

The Tennessee Farm and Home Science Collection (digital.lib.utk.edu/tfhs) holds quarterly progress reports published by the UT Agricultural Experiment Station from 1952 to 1990. Reports include agricultural research conducted at experiment stations across the state as well as personnel changes and faculty spotlights. Field day schedules and figures on grants and gifts received by the Agricultural Experiment Station are also published in the reports.

While showcasing agricultural history in Tennessee, the publications in these collections also frequently reference historical and political events of the time, such as World War I and the Great Depression, providing insight into how such events influenced life in Tennessee. More than 29,000 pages of historical agricultural publications are now easily searchable and openly available to anyone researching or just curious about the history of Tennessee agriculture.

Isabella Baxter is agriculture and natural resources librarian and assistant professor at the UT Libraries.
The Story of the World
By R. B. Morris

Where does this story end?
Where did it all begin?
All the pages that we turned
What have we really learned?
I saw it in a dream
A childhood memory
It fades away so soon
Like evening stars at noon
The story of the world

And those who’ve gone before
Who walked along this shore
Those children of the sun
Going back and back beyond
Who lived here in their time
As I live now in mine
We rise and then we fall
Like sparks upon a chimney wall
The story of the world

Did they tell you, did you hear?
The world you know will disappear
But they can never, no not ever, tell you who you are

He was working when the sun came up
Coffee and bourbon in a cup
He wrote a letter to a friend
Then went back to work again
Wrestling an angel through the night
Drag that body into the light
No matter what the cost
To keep this morning watch
And tell the story of the world

Night of the Hunter, African Queen
Knoxville: Summer 1915
We are talking now of summer evenings . . . when I was a child

A father and a son
An evening walk back home
A favorite place they like to stop
And sit together on a rock
Listening to the night
Beneath the stars so still so quiet
They’ll sit a while and then they’ll walk
No need to even talk
To tell the story of the world

“I have had a long and ever-changing relationship to the author and his work. . . . My interest in Agee, of late, has been with the publication of “A Death in the Family”: A Restoration of the Author’s Text. Reading the restored version of this novel after living my whole life with the Pulitzer Prize–winning original publication of the book was quite a revelation for me. . . . [T]he song is much like a ‘co-write’ with Agee as I use some of his lines, but halfway through the song it also becomes about Agee, as the main character in the song.”

R. B. Morris

Visit volumes.lib.utk.edu/rbmorris for the full artist’s statement, Morris’s essay “Thoughts and Reflections on James Agee and A Death in the Family,” and his annotations to the song lyrics.
Boundless:
ARTISTS IN THE ARCHIVES
-Session Two
by Chris Durman

“If your library is not collecting local materials, who is?” The University of Tennessee Libraries has long answered that question by collecting meaningful artifacts of our local history and culture. In 2017, the Libraries went a step further and began commissioning local artists to create new works inspired by rare and archival collections held in our Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives.

Dean of Libraries Steve Smith envisioned the program as a way to demonstrate and promote the research value of our special collections. Our first commissioned artists, Amanda and Allen Rigell—who perform together as Count This Penny—gave the program its title, Boundless: Artists in the Archives. The Rigells composed and performed two songs inspired by materials in our archives. Recordings of those works were released online and as a 45 RPM record included in the 2017–2018 Library Development Review.

This past spring, Boundless wrapped up its second session, which featured a collaboration with local singer, songwriter, poet, and author R. B. Morris.

We in the Libraries know Morris from his tenure as our Jack E. Reese Writer-in-Residence. Many in the East Tennessee community know him as an internationally celebrated singer-songwriter, as Knoxville’s first poet laureate, as the author of The Man Who Lives Here Is Loony (a one-man play taken from the life and work of author-critic-screenwriter James Agee), or as one of the driving forces behind the creation of James Agee Park in the Fort Sanders neighborhood near the university. As inspiration for his Boundless session, Morris returned to a subject he knows well. He used materials from the Libraries’ extensive collection of primary source materials created by and affiliated with James Agee.

Morris, like Agee, grew up in Fort Sanders. He became aware of Agee early in life, and he and his father even attended the 1963 premier of All the Way Home, the film adaptation of Agee’s Pulitzer Prize–winning novel, A Death in the Family. Since then, Morris has spent much time thinking about Agee, his work, and the author’s Knoxville legacy. He can speak at length on Agee—and has, many times over the course of his career.

On the evening of April 4, before a rapt audience of library friends, James Agee fans and scholars, and his own friends, fans, and family, Morris picked up his well-worn Gibson guitar and played “The Story of the World.” This was the next song to be added to our Boundless playlist. His performance, featuring accompaniment by guitarist Greg Horne, took place in the Hodges Library auditorium.

Morris acknowledged several people in the audience, including Michael Lofaro, editor of the multivolume Works of James Agee, before warming up the crowd with a few original songs. He performed “Take That Ride,” the title song from his debut album, which also features Agee. When the time came to perform “The Story of the World,” the crowd listened intently as Morris sang his bittersweet but beautiful reflection on Agee and Agee’s creative accomplishments. Morris spoke briefly on his process of writing the song and took questions from the audience before packing his old guitar back into its case.

Some weeks after the performance at Hodges Library, Morris, Horne, and bassist Daniel Kimbro made a studio recording of “The Story of the World.” You can enjoy it along with the songs from the first Boundless session and R. B. Morris’s artist’s statement and essay on James Agee at volumes.lib.utk.edu/rbmorris. Music and other material from future sessions will be added to the site as they become available.

Over time, we plan to invite artists of all kinds (painters, sculptors, writers . . . ) to explore our archives and add their own unique creative expressions to the Boundless series. But for the immediate future, Boundless will continue to collaborate with musicians from our vibrant and growing local music community. Our intention is to compile the individual sessions and create a full album. Discussions have already begun as to who might be selected as the next Artist in the Archives.

Chris Durman is music librarian, branch coordinator of the George F. DeVine Music Library, and associate professor at the UT Libraries.
In late 2018, a Swiss documentarian, Richard Dindo, visited our Special Collections to film several items from our James Agee holdings. It was part of a new film concept: the camera was to follow an actress-filmmaker through the creation of a fictional film, combining a traditional inquiry with historical fiction.

Dindo presented primary source artifacts alongside dramatizations of Agee’s life—a sort of film-within-a-film. While his film was in the planning stage, a friend who was aware of R. B. Morris’s familiarity with Agee’s history introduced Dindo to the Knoxville singer-songwriter, author, and playwright. Morris helped Dindo make connections around town and select an assistant for the filmmaking process.

Dindo and his crew filmed at sites throughout Knoxville, including a few locales from Agee’s childhood in Fort Sanders, as well as visiting the neighborhood’s James Agee Park, a community project championed by Morris. Dindo was so pleased with Morris’s style and understanding of the subject that he asked Morris to write an original song about Agee to be featured in the film. We look forward to sharing this film at volumes.lib.utk.edu/ldr/ageefilm.
Updates to Our Spaces

A GRADUATE COMMONS

A long-desired project is finally complete: a Graduate Commons in Hodges Library now offers UT graduate students both ready access to technology and a quiet space for research and relaxation.

Often graduate students juggle research and writing with teaching and family obligations. In surveys and focus groups, graduate students stated a desire for their own dedicated library space, a place where they would not have to compete for resources while managing tight schedules. The Graduate Commons, in a quiet corner of the first floor, answers those needs.

The Graduate Commons is furnished with adjustable-height desks, ergonomic chairs, and lounge areas with sofas—features to ease a workday that can include extended periods of time working on dissertations or analyzing data. It supports scholarly work by providing computers with powerful processors and dual monitors, specialized software, small-group rooms, and a large presentation room that can host a dissertation defense. There are even small amenities such as a phone charging station and a bank of lockers. Grad students just need to swipe their VolCard to access this exclusive Shangri-la.

PENDERGRASS AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE LIBRARY UPDATED

In fall 2018, Pendergrass Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Library received a major upgrade. It was the first substantial renovation since the branch library moved to its current location in the Veterinary Medicine Building in 1974.

The library’s computer lab received new computers and furniture, and all library technology, including 3D printers, was consolidated in an area that offers less glare from windows. The library’s Quiet Zone gained new computer workstations for intensive individual work, and study rooms were outfitted with new display monitors and plug-and-play equipment to facilitate group work. To answer the growing demand for plentiful power and internet, Pendergrass upgraded and expanded the electrical and network infrastructures to keep students’ devices running smoothly. The library added some inviting new seating options, including pod chairs, ottomans, and banquettes, as well as new tables—both large and small.

The remodeled space opened just before the beginning of fall semester, and the campus community celebrated with an open house in October. The upgrades have been well received and much appreciated by both Pendergrass regulars and newcomers.

LACTATION ROOM IN HODGES LIBRARY

Students, faculty, staff, and library visitors now have access to a lactation room in John C. Hodges Library. Staff at the UT Libraries wanted to better support parents and caregivers who are balancing child care with work, classes, or both. This year, Hodges Library became one of more than a dozen buildings on campus to provide a lactation room—a retreat for any parent or caregiver who needs a private space to express milk or feed an infant.

Our lactation room, on the second floor in an accessible location near the main entrance, is comfortably furnished with a padded rocking chair, a sink, dimmable lighting, a white noise machine, and other conveniences. The lactation room is available all hours the library is open.
Into the Great Wide Open

Publish Openly
in an Open Access Journal
- Publishing:
  - Open Publishing Support Fund, up to $2,500 per article
  - Journal hosting service for new open access journals

Archive Openly
Self-archive publications and data in an Open Repository
- Archiving:
  - TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange, University of Tennessee’s open repository
What if new forms of community engagement could help solve some of society’s seemingly intractable problems—such as the current opioid crisis? This community focus is central to the values of the open scholarship movement—currently a hot topic in libraries around the globe, and in particular at the University of Tennessee Libraries. While you may have heard of the open access movement, the term open scholarship is not widely known. Open scholarship encompasses open access as well as open data, open educational resources, and other endeavors that promote free access to the tools and results of research. The intention behind these efforts is to change the way knowledge is created and shared.

For researchers, the open approach brings a variety of advantages. They can make their final products available to a broader public and their data available to other researchers, allowing for greater ease in reproducing studies. Open-access publication ensures that the public has unfiltered access to the results of scientific studies. Given the misinformation rampant in our culture and media (particularly social media), access to original sources of information is critical. Full open access to research literature serves the public interest.

In the classroom, the open scholarship approach benefits both teacher and student. Instructors can adopt open textbooks that are available at no cost to students. They can assign multiple resources and use as much or as little of each as they want, without worrying about students paying for each resource. This helps instructors to dynamically tailor their teaching materials. Students who have access to such resources can save a great deal of money on textbooks. In addition, both instructors and students can be assured that every student in the class has equitable access to the same resources.

At the UT Libraries, we embrace and encourage open scholarship in many ways. Open access archiving and open educational resources are just two examples of how we bring faculty work to the public.

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**Most Tennesseans Can’t See UT Faculty Publications**

Mentoring teens. Treating opioid addiction. Harnessing solar power. What do they have in common? For one, anyone working on these issues wants to know what the latest evidence-based research studies say about how to successfully address these challenges.

So where do you find the latest studies and research outcomes? An important source is faculty-authored publications—peer-reviewed articles published in scholarly journals where faculty who design tests and trials report their results. When multiple articles report similar findings, evidence accrues that something—a method, a drug, a theory, a procedure—works.

Fortunately, faculty are researching many issues, including those above, to find evidence-based solutions. Unfortunately, most of their findings are published in subscription-only, closed-access journals behind password-protected paywalls. Google might find an article, but you can’t read it without paying unless you work or study at a university that has paid for access.

There is one notable exception to the paywalls: Many peer-reviewed articles in the field of public health are available because the National Institutes of Health requires grant recipients to share their work with the public in PubMed Central, an open-access repository. This public access has greatly benefited those searching for evidence about health conditions and medical treatments.

Despite PubMed Central’s popularity, much of the research from other disciplines remains inaccessible to the public. In part, this is due to the copyright practices of many major journal publishers, which often require authors to sign away their rights to the final version of their articles. In most instances, however, authors retain some rights to an earlier version. The version before the publisher adds formatting and flourishes—which is usually the final version minus page numbers, watermarks, and graphics—is normally one that authors can share in an open-access repository. Additionally, a growing number of open-access journals make articles publicly accessible by default.
Though faculty can choose to make their work openly available through open-access repositories or open-access journals, doing so involves extra time and effort. Many faculty are uncertain about their rights or unclear about how to find reputable open-access journals, and they are not rewarded for depositing articles into open-access repositories. But when they do share their work openly, their audience and the benefits of their work expand exponentially.

The UT Libraries recognizes the benefits of open access and supports it in several ways. One way is by providing funds and venues for open-access publishing. For example, the UT Open Publishing Support Fund, co-sponsored by the Libraries and the Office of Research and Engagement, helps faculty and departments cover fees they are charged for publishing in open-access journals. The Libraries also provides a platform for open-access archiving, similar to PubMed Central. UT’s open-access repository, TRACE—Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange—is a place for UT faculty to openly archive their articles and make them publicly available. Faculty can make their datasets, presentations, and other scholarship openly available in TRACE as well.

The Open Publishing Support Fund is gaining in popularity. However, TRACE is 10 years old and still contains very few faculty publications compared to the scholarly output of all UT faculty. We’re working hard to inform faculty about the benefits of open access and acquaint them with library resources—from infrastructure to expertise—that can help them make their work openly available.

We want faculty to hear from members of the community why access to research findings is important to them. One way we do this is by holding a search skills workshop that gives East Tennessee nonprofit organizations a daylong pass to peer-reviewed journal articles that are ordinarily behind the paywall. Then we interview and survey the organizations about their experiences.

One nonprofit said, “Without [public] access to research . . . we can’t be doing our best work, and that impacts our clients.” Another said that open access means “the ability to implement evidence-based programs . . . that work for our clients.” Some of their statements now appear on the homepage of TRACE, and we’ll continue to share these quotes with faculty to tell them of the public’s desire for access to their work. We will also direct faculty to our recent videos about open access, edited by UT student Abby Bower.

“Without [public] access to research . . . we can’t be doing our best work, and that impacts our clients.”

Open access means “the ability to implement evidence-based programs . . . that work for our clients.”

We hope these measures will increase the number of faculty who make their articles open to the public, either through open-access journal publishing or by openly archiving publications in TRACE. These two paths to open, public access to peer-reviewed journal articles will help the public make more informed, evidence-based decisions on topics ranging from how to help people experiencing homelessness to the best techniques for marketing a small business.

It may not be what faculty are graded on for tenure, but open, public access to faculty publications can have an enormously beneficial impact in the world outside of academia, including faculty members’ neighbors, friends, and family. And, after all, isn’t that what a land-grant institution like UT is all about?

Learn more about TRACE:
trace.tennessee.edu

Learn more about the OPS Fund:
tiny.utk.edu/opsf

Watch our videos about open access:
volumes.lib.utk.edu/ldr/open-access

Robin A. Bedenbaugh is coordinator of marketing and communications and associate professor at the UT Libraries.

Rachel Caldwell is scholarly communication and publishing librarian and associate professor at the UT Libraries.
Faculty at research universities are evaluated on three criteria: contributions to research, contributions to teaching, and professional service. When we talk about open access to journal articles, we’re really talking about public access to faculty research contributions. So can there be public access to faculty teaching materials? Yes! In the past few years, open educational resources, or OERs, have emerged as a way to give students and the public free access to faculty-created educational resources, from textbooks to problem sets to recorded lectures.

One widely known OER is open textbooks. These are faculty-authored textbooks that are free to read and share under an open license that tells instructors and students what they can (and can’t) do without seeking the author’s permission under copyright.

Faculty who create open textbooks often do so as a result of a grant. Faculty awarded grants to create open textbooks are given a monetary stipend in place of royalties. The resulting book can be assigned by any instructor anywhere, giving every student equitable access to the textbook, not just on one campus, but on any campus using that OER.

The UT Libraries tracks OER adoptions and knows that OERs were used in at least one section of more than 20 UT courses during the 2018–19 academic year, saving students an estimated $816,600. A few hundred dollars each semester can be the difference between a Vol staying enrolled or returning home due to financial difficulties. UT students receive the greatest number of federal Pell Grants out of all Southeastern Conference schools. Creating or using a book that ensures everyone has access to the same material is not only innovative, it’s elemental to student success.

Because we believe open education creates increased access to higher education, each year the UT Libraries bestows the Open Education Trailblazer Award on a faculty member who uses or creates OERs. The award is presented in tandem with the Student Government Association’s annual Open Education Awards reception, launched in 2017 to thank faculty for providing such resources. SGA presents additional awards to faculty nominated by students for their use of OERs, including open textbooks. Members of SGA and the Dean of Libraries’ Student Advisory Committee review the nominations and select the winners.

This year’s Open Education Trailblazer Award was presented to Barbara Murphy, an associate professor in the School of Music. Murphy has been working with the Libraries and the Office of Information Technology to create an OER website featuring materials for teaching music theory. Murphy received a grant from UT Student Life, administered by the Libraries, to develop the site and license it openly. The grant incentivized her efforts, and came with several hours of support from OIT’s instructional design experts. She has already heard from three music instructors who are using her site. Check it out at musictheorymaterials.utk.edu.
books and chapters


journal articles and conference proceedings

Melanie Allen, Niki Kirkpatrick, and Elizabeth Agosto. “Anatomage Table 6.” *Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries*.


Anna Sandelli and Sojourna Cunningham. “Ethnography in Student-owned Spaces: Using Whiteboards to Explore Learning Communities and Student Success.” *New Review of Academic Librarianship*.


Ken Wise. “‘Make Them Wimmen Stay’: The Founding of the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School.” *Smokies Life Magazine*.

“Paul Adams Builds First Permanent Camp on Mount Le Conte.” *Smokies Life Magazine*.

presentations


Louis Becker. “‘Greatest Hits’ of the Circulating Collection: Subject-Based Retrospective Analysis of Circulation Data to Inform Local Collection Priorities.” Presentation at the Library Assessment Conference.


Kris Bronstad. “An Analysis of Archival References in Peer-Reviewed History Journals.” Poster presentation at the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Symposium.

Rachel Caldwell, Heather Doncaster, and Anna Sandelli. “How to Develop an SGA Open Education Award on Your Campus.” Poster presentation at the Open Education Conference.

Rachel Caldwell, Bruce Herbert, and Morgan Hartgrove. “Student Involvement in Campus OER Movements: Creating and Sustaining an SGA Open Education Award.” Panel presentation at the Open Education Conference.


“Expanding the Boundaries of STEM Literacy: Success through Program Partnership.” Presentation at the Crossing Boundaries for Teaching STEM Conference.


“Expanding the Boundaries of STEM Literacy: Success through Program Partnership.” Presentation at the Crossing Boundaries for Teaching STEM Conference.

Thura Mack, Jerry Robertson, and Laurie Robertson. “Name that Tune: Student Success.” Presentation at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.


Regina Mays, Rachel Fleming-May, Carol Tenopir, Dania Bilal, and Amy Forrester. “Building a Master’s Program in User Experience and Assessment.” Poster presentation at the Library Assessment Conference.


Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts. “An Experiment with Name Entities in Wikidata at University of Tennessee Libraries.” Lightning talk at the LD4 Conference on Linked Data in Libraries.


“From Name Authorities to Identity Management.” Presentation at the Tennessee Library Association Annual Conference.

“Wikidata and Scholarly Communication.” Invited presentation at the American Library Association Annual Conference.


Laura Romans. “Virginia P. Moore: Tennessee’s First Home Demonstration Agent.” Presentation at the University of Tennessee Mic/Nite.

Laura Romans and Allison Mckittrip. “Student Workers and Special Collections: A Symbiotic Relationship?” Presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference.


Melanie Allen received an Ysabel Bertolucci Grant from the Medical Library Association.

Isabella Baxter was elected as Member-at-Large to the Executive Board of AgNIC (Agricultural Network Information Center), a partnership that supports access to agricultural information.

Isabella Baxter, Louisa Trott, and David Atkins received an $11,000 grant from the Center for Research Libraries' Project Ceres to digitize and preserve a selection of 20th-century agricultural serials from UT Extension and Experiment Station.

Robin Bedenbaugh was selected to participate in UT’s 2019–2020 Leadership Development Program. She was also selected to serve on the Program Committee for the Library Publishing Coalition.

Robin Bedenbaugh, Cathy Jenkins, Martha Rudolph, and Sarah Zimmerman Sanders received a Grand Award in the periodical category and a Special Merit Award in editorial design for the 2016–2017 Library Development Review from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), District III.

Chris Caldwell was featured by Fine Books and Collections magazine as a Bright Young Librarian.

Meredith Hale received a DLF + DHSI Tuition Grant to attend the Digital Humanities Summer Institute in Victoria, BC.

Nathalie Hristov and Miroslav P. Hristov received a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission to produce the University of Tennessee Ready for the World Music Series.

Nathalie Hristov and Allison Sharp received Scholarly Activity and Research Incentive Funds from UT’s Office of Research and Engagement. The grant funded travel to Kraków, Poland, to make a presentation at the 2019 Congress of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives, and Documentation Centres.

Thura Mack and Lynn Hodge received a mini-grant from UT’s Office of Community Engagement and Outreach for their project, Native American Contributions to STEM: Family STEM Nights.

Holly Mercer was elected to the HathiTrust Board of Governors. HathiTrust, a partnership of major academic and research libraries, preserves and provides digital access to scholarship. She was also appointed a Faculty Fellow in UT’s Office of Research and Engagement. As a Faculty Fellow she provides campus leadership on research integrity and the responsible conduct of research.

Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts received a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to give a talk at the 2019 LD4 Conference at Harvard University.

Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts was elected to the Global Council of OCLC, an international library cooperative.

Alesha Shumar was profiled by Fine Books and Collections magazine as a Bright Young Librarian.

Steve Smith was elected to the Steering Committee of SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition).

Jeanine Williamson’s book Teaching to Individual Differences in Science and Engineering Librarianship: Adapting Library Instruction to Learning Styles and Personality Characteristics received a Best Publication Award from the American Society for Engineering Education, Engineering Library Division.
Every day, our librarians, faculty, and staff witness and celebrate moments of learning and success: a history class transcribing handwritten Civil War letters, engineering students testing the load-bearing capabilities of 3D-printed model beams, a first-generation undergrad completing her final research paper before she receives her degree. These and so many other moments are possible because of you, our donors.

Your financial support of the University Libraries is an investment in the leaders of tomorrow. Over the past year, we have used your gifts to propel the Libraries and the University forward by providing resources, spaces, and services that ensure our students have the tools they need to succeed. Thank you for making our work possible.

Your membership in the Library Society comes with some additional benefits. For a $100 donation, you receive full borrowing privileges at the University Libraries. A gift of $250 secures an invitation to our annual Library Society tailgate, and when you join at the Dean’s Circle level ($500+), you receive a VolShop discount and invitations to exclusive special events for high-level donors. Donors who include the University Libraries in their estate plans are recognized as members of the James D. Hoskins Legacy Circle, and those who give $25,000 and above join the ranks of the John C. Hodges Fellows. Members of both of these giving societies enjoy lifetime borrowing privileges at the University Libraries.

Thank you for making every moment of learning and success possible. We celebrate those moments and we celebrate you.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact:

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cfox@utfi.org
Collection, Service, and Scholarship Endowments

Annual income from endowments allows the University Libraries to add to our physical and digital collections, enhance library spaces, access cutting-edge technology, and provide guidance for student success and professional development for faculty and staff. Endowments begin at $25,000, and donors may make a single gift or build an endowed fund over time.

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Humanities

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The James D. Hoskins Legacy Circle honors our friends who have included the University Libraries in their estate plans or other deferred gift arrangement. These gifts help to sustain the library by establishing collection, service, and scholarship endowments to continue a legacy of support for the University Libraries. Following is a list of friends who made gifts before June 30, 2019. If you have included the University Libraries in your estate plans or would like information on how to do so, please contact Brian Broyles, Senior Director of Advancement, at 865-974-9588.

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The Volunteer statue, best known by its nickname the Torchbearer, was selected in part by an international contest in the late 1920s for the best design of a campus symbol. In the original, winning design the figure held a lamp instead of a torch. After asking the winning designer for a few modifications, the lamp was replaced with a torch held high. For more on the Volunteer statue, see The Volunteer Symbol Committee Papers Collection AR.0776 at the Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives.