

NEWSLETTER

University of Central Oklahoma

FALL 2024

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COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

The Charles Simmons Collection: African-American, Native American and Hispanic American Voices

The Charles Simmons Collection, named after former UCO Journalism Professor Charles Simmons, contains issues of African American, Native American and Hispanic newspapers published from 1983 to 2007. The collection was donated to the UCO Archives by Professor Simmons, who served as a professor of journalism at UCO from 1981 until his retirement in 2008.

Prior to his academic career, Simmons spent twenty-six years serving his country in the United States Air Force as an electronic communications expert, retiring as a highly decorated Master Sergeant in 1977.

Simmons earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from UCO and obtained a doctorate in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on non-print journalism from OSU. During his years as a student at UCO, Simmons worked as a photographer and reporter for the Vista and as a photography technician in the UCO student photo lab.

Simmons' interest in collecting the newspapers of minority groups grew out of his research for his book, "The African American Press: A History of News Coverage During National Crises, With Special Reference to Four Newspapers, 1827-1965." In an article in the Vista in 1998 Simmons said that the book began as a dissertation for his doctoral work. "I chose this subject because I wanted to do something no one else had done."



Staff Photo from the blog of former UCO professor, Terry Clark, Coffee with Clark

The book itself took nearly ten years to complete due to the tedious research involved. "It is difficult to research black history," Simmons said. "You really have to search. It doesn't consume entire books like white history does. You have to look through many books and find small sections that discuss black history."

Simmons' book reviews the history of the black press from its beginning to the civil rights movement of the early sixties. As he makes clear in the book, Simmons believed that the large question throughout the history of black journalism was what balance should be struck between militancy and accommodation, and what balance should be maintained between sensationalism and straight news.

The newspapers Simmons used in his research and those in his collection are a rich source of information on African American history, culture and daily life.

Newspapers in the collection include issues of the Black Chronicle, published in Oklahoma City, and the Oklahoma Eagle, published in Tulsa. Similar information about Native American history and culture is found in copies of Bishinik, a Choctaw Nation newspaper, and Wassaja: the National Newspaper of Indian America, while copies of LaVoz and the Hispanic News provide information about Hispanic history and culture.

As a professor, Simmons was committed to providing students with training in the skills required for a successful career in professional journalism and news photography. He sponsored UCO's Sigma Delta Chi chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists as well as teaching courses in journalism and photography. Additionally, he worked as a freelance photographer. An exhibition titled "The Photographic Legacy of Dr. Charles Simmons" was presented by the Owen's Arts Place Museum in Guthrie in 2016.

To find more information about this collection and others held by the Chambers Library Archives and Special Collections go to library.uco.edu/archives or call 405-974-2871.



Charles Simmons

LIBRARY REPORT

The library annually reviews the services that we provide and to how many people we serve. This year, we had a significant increase in the number of engagement interactions we had with our community of students and faculty. Our interactions with individuals are broken up into quick transactions, more in-depth consultations, and virtual reference services. Transactions are typically checking materials in and out, directional questions, or computer help. Consultations are when our Research and Learning librarians work one-on-one with an individual for a longer period of time. Virtual reference services are comprised of chat reference and video calls with individuals. Not surprisingly, we always have the most individual transactions. However, this fiscal year, we increased our more in-depth consultations with the librarians by over 150% to a total of 314. Our team of four Research and Learning librarians' interactions with groups has increased more modestly with providing 185 library instruction sessions and serving 2,213 students in those sessions. Attendance was up by over 30%, and total instruction sessions rose by 8%.

The great news about all of this is that while we are seeing more people coming into the library, we are engaging more with those students in meaningful ways at a greater rate of growth than just traffic in the library. Our door counters tracked an increase of just 6% for traffic within the library compared to the much higher increases above. For several years, librarians have visited other locations on campus for improved outreach to the students and faculty. This engagement along with offering instruction sessions seems to be getting the word out that our library staff is happy to help and provides valuable assistance to our community.



Risa Jensen-Jones, ILS Administrator



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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

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Nicole Willard

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 12:15 a.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m. - 12:15 a.m.

Saturday
10 a.m. - 12:15 a.m.

Sunday
Noon - 12:15 a.m.

Max Chambers Library

100 N. University Dr.
Campus Box 192
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034
Phone: (405) 974-3361
Text: (405) 266-5895

library.uco.edu

FRIENDS OF THE CHAMBERS LIBRARY

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G. Steven & Mrs. Osborn
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Julia Reed
Mandana Roshan
Cynthia Sapper
Carole Sites-Walker
Michael Springer
Nicole Sump-Crethar
Stephanie Tatum
Aaron Taylor
Amie Thompson
Janette Wetsel
Traca Wolfe
Shawn Wright

EXHIBITS

ARTISTIC SYNERGY: A FUSION OF TALENT

Over the summer, the library facilitated its 3rd annual Faculty and Staff Art Exhibit. This exhibit showcased the artistic prowess of the employees of Central and was displayed on the 1st floor from June to August. We again called for submissions from all UCO Faculty and Staff. Twelve individuals from various entities on campus shared their talents, some contributing multiple pieces to the display. An exhibit reception held July 10th allowed the artists to share their creative processes and present their pieces to an audience of their peers. This exhibit has become a summer staple in the library, and we look forward to seeing what our fellow employees create in the future.



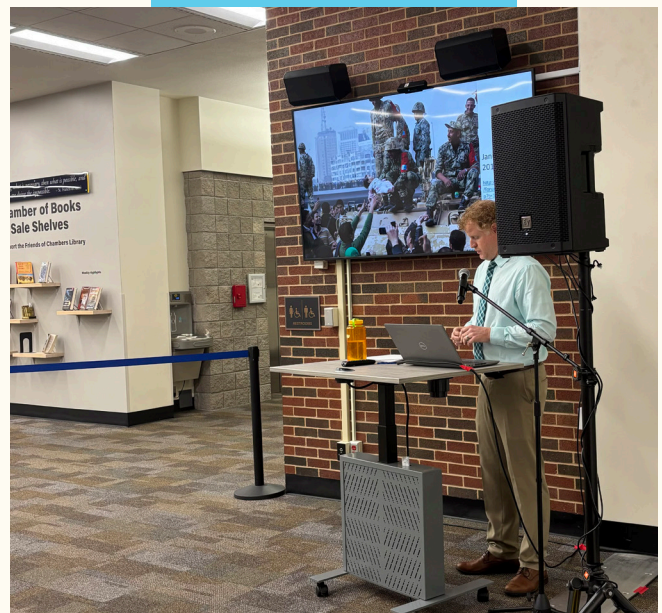
Casadee Jegelewicz, Kaitlyn Palone, Lauren Burk, Gray Hale, Beth Jones, Aaron Sterba, Oliver Ellington, Gray Hale, Michelle Luke, Angela Mackey, Miranda Moore, Shelia Murry, Dr. R.J. Woods

ART AS RESISTANCE

In October, the Chambers Library, Archives and Special Collections presented the exhibit “Art as Resistance.” The display investigates the intersection of art, history, and resistance, through posters from our Don Betz and Women’s Rights are Human Rights collections, highlighting the significant role that art plays in challenging oppression and advocating for human rights. Beyond addressing societal issues, art serves as a vital medium for personal and collec-

EXHIBITS CONTINUED...

tive resistance. Through the presentation of these diverse expressions of resistance, the exhibit emphasizes art's crucial role as a dynamic force for social change and empowerment, illustrating how creative endeavors can shape and reflect the ongoing struggle for justice and equality. On Oct. 30, the library hosted an opening for this exhibit, which included a presentation by Dr. Andrew Magnusson, associate professor of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies here at UCO. The presentation was well attended, with 40 students, faculty and staff in attendance. Refreshments were served after the presentation provided by FOL.



Dr. Magnusson giving his presentation



Art as Resistance exhibit

INNOVATION STUDIO SPOTLIGHT

The Innovation Studio has had a transformative semester, focusing on user engagement and increasing participation in our monthly open houses. Through innovative programming and effective outreach, we've successfully increased awareness of our resources and attracted more members of the UCO community to our space.

CREATIVE OPEN HOUSE

The Innovation Studio hosted several engaging open houses, welcoming over 50 patrons in total, including students, faculty, and staff. Each event offered a chance to explore different tools and techniques available in the Innovation Studio. Highlights include:

- **Polaroid Picture Decorating** - In August, we hosted a "back to school" session where attendees utilized 3D printers to create custom polaroid frames. Our staff took polaroid pictures of patrons, who then decorated their frames. Participants enjoyed assembling their creations, combining personal memories with hands-on crafting.

- **Origami Creations** - In September, our open house centered around the art of origami, offering attendees the chance to learn and create. Patrons were able to utilize the library's collection of origami books for guidance and inspiration.

- **Zine Making** - During October patrons dove into self-publishing by creating personalized zines, discovering the power of storytelling and expression. Attendees were given the opportunity to donate their work to the new Zine Library!

- **Jewelry Making with the Laser Cutter** - In November, attendees crafted jewelry pieces while learning about the Muse laser cutter and its capabilities. The open house allowed patrons to assemble lapel pins and earrings with various colored acrylic and wood sheets. This event was perfectly timed for creating gifts or fun pieces for the holiday season.



Kaylen Buchanan with students at the Innovation Studio Open House



Karl Siewert with students at the Innovation Studio Open House

INCREASED ENGAGEMENT

We're excited to see the growing interest in the Innovation Studio, reflected in the increased number of patron use in the studio, as well as higher participation in the open houses. This past year, we welcomed over 1,000 patrons who completed 3D prints, hosted more than 200 visitors for studio tours, and facilitated over 100 equipment reservations. This success is largely due to our dedicated staff, especially our student employees, who work hard to learn the equipment and assist patrons with a welcoming attitude.

Karl hosted a pocket workshop for five faculty and staff members in September. Attendees learned about the history of pockets in clothing designed for men and for women, and each participant sewed their own historical external pocket to take home. In December, Karl plans to share their skills in Tinkercad with a workshop in the library classroom.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look toward the future, we're excited to continue offering innovative programs, expanding our equipment, and connecting with more patrons. Our team is eager to support new projects and help the university community explore all the Innovation Studio has to offer. We're looking forward to collaborating with other departments across campus to bring more awareness and opportunities to the UCO community, with plans for future events and initiatives to support students during key times throughout the academic year.

AROUND THE LIBRARY



Presenter, Sydney Morrow, Ph.D.

PASSPORT TO NEPAL

On September 24, the Chambers Library hosted the Fall 2024, Passport to Nepal kickoff event on the first floor. Sydney Morrow, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Humanities and Philosophy department presented on Kumari, the Nepali living child Goddesses and the veneration of the young Buddhist girls as manifestations of the divine female energy in Nepalese Buddhism.

Also included was the unveiling of the Library's Nepali Book Display. In support of the Passport UCO program, the library adds new books on the selected country or region to the main collection each year. During the fall we display these books on a shelf just inside the east entrance of the library. These books covering Nepal are available for checkout.

Each fall the Passport UCO program selects a country or region to study with the mission to inspire unity and understanding in the global community while providing entertaining and educational events. For more information on the Passport program please contact Michelle Brym, Ph.D., professor of geography and Passport UCO coordinator, mbrym@uco.edu.

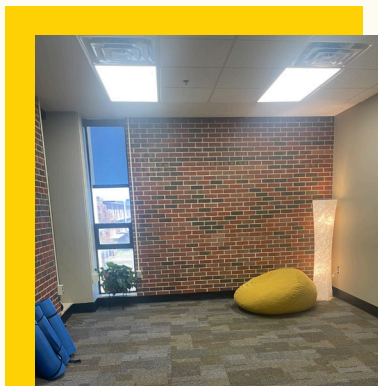
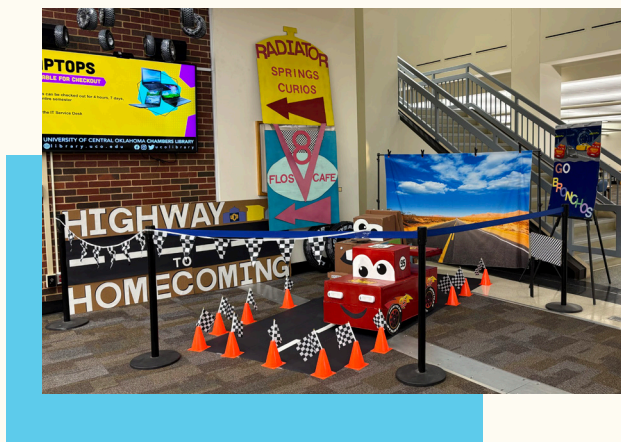


LIBRARY RESOURCES AT ACM

This fall we piloted a book checkout program at the Academy of Contemporary Music (ACM@UCO) in Bricktown. Many of these students never visit the main campus because all their classes take place in OKC. At the suggestion of their student group president and in cooperation with ACM administration, we have placed more than 100 titles on site for use by ACM students, faculty, and staff. This pilot program, which will continue through the spring semester, will help to inform us as we seek to best serve these members of the UCO community.

HIGHWAY TO HOMECOMING

The library always has the most creative homecoming displays. This year the theme was Highway to Homecoming and our display was inspired by the movie *Cars*.



New Reflection Room, top and bottom

LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT

Over the summer the library made a few changes. The large study room on the east side of the second floor was turned into two smaller study rooms, and a new reflection room. This library improvement project was a result of student requests for additional study rooms, and a safe, quiet space for meditation and silent reflection. We also have added new furniture to the Max Room on the 4th floor!



New Max Room furniture, left and right



STAFF IN THE NEWS



*Kaitlyn Palone, Librarian II,
Metadata & Cataloging*

COMMUNITY ARCHIVING WORKSHOP

Kaitlyn has been working with the Community Archiving Workshop (CAW) on several projects. CAW works to organize workshops for underserved collections to pair them with experts to process their audio-visual collections. Last fall she was part of the Training of Trainers program as a trainee to train others to hold these workshops and was invited back this year as a trainer. Kaitlyn has also been selected to join two workshops that are funded through a grant through National Endowment for the Humanities to work with different Tribal Nations across the country. The first is with the Rappahannock in Richmond, VA next month. In the spring she will be leading a workshop in Wyandotte, OK with the Shawnee.

Kaitlyn applied for and was accepted as a member of the Zine Thesaurus Management Collective. This organization works to maintain a controlled vocabulary for Zines throughout the Anchor Archive Zine Library in Nova Scotia. Kaitlyn was also elected vice-president of the Literary Link Board of Directors. Literary Link is a non-profit organization that provides one-on-one literacy instruction to functionally illiterate adults in eastern Oklahoma County.



*Nicole Sump-Crethar, Dir. of
Technology and Data Management*

SOFTWARE CARPENTRY & AI

In July, Nicole finished her instructor certification for Software Carpentry as part of a partnership with Oklahoma State University and Langston University. Software carpentry is an international organization, dedicated to helping researchers learn basic coding skills in a variety of programming languages and software. In July she also completed the Google AI Essentials course offered by the State of Oklahoma through Coursera. The course covered responsible use of generative AI and strategies for staying current on developments in AI.

3D MODELING



*Karl Siewert, Emerging and Immersive
Technology Librarian*

Karl attended the American Library Association conference in San Diego and presented on basic 3D modeling with Tinker cad.

ALMA ADMINISTRATION



Risa Jensen-Jones, ILS Administrator

Risa completed the Alma Administration Certification in June and the Primo VE Administration Certification in July. These are certifications for the behind-the-scenes library software and for the public catalog. She is also volunteering with the Central Pantry this semester.



Risa Jensen-Jones, ILS Administrator

RISA JENSEN-JONES

Risa started at the UCO Library in June working as the ILS Administrator and Software Developer. She comes most recently from the Metropolitan Library System, where she spent 13 years in supervisory and management roles, including 6 years as a Regional Director. Before that, she spent around a year at Oklahoma City University as the Access Services Librarian, overseeing circulation and ILL. Risa obtained a BA in Philosophy from Texas A&M University, an MA in youth ministry from Wartburg Theological Seminary, and an MLIS from University of Oklahoma. They found their love of libraries through being a work-study student at the seminary library and then as the volunteer coordinator for their children's elementary school library. Outside of work, Risa enjoys crafts of knitting, crocheting, and sewing plus occasional mountain biking. They have 3 adult children (Aren, CJ, and Connor) on the autism spectrum that currently live with them, and have been married to their spouse, Steve, for four years.

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

With the important 2024 Presidential Election taking place on Tuesday, November 5th as well as state Congressional seats up-for-grabs and several important state and local questions on the ballot it is safe to say that the interest in politics this year has been at an all time high. A crucial component of the university's mission is to empower our student body to become ethical and engaged citizens both during and after their time at UCO. During September and into October, the library partnered with UCO's Civic Slices Group and the League of Women Voters to assist students in the Oklahoma voter registration process. Civic Slices is a student-led group that encourages young voters to claim their own future by helping young voters to register and assist in making the voting process more accessible to young

voters in the UCO student community. The voter registration table staffed by volunteers from the League of Women voters provided students with information on voter registration, absentee balloting, polling places as well as assisting students to register to vote both online and on-paper. Through this non-partisan effort over 50 students were able to conveniently register to vote including several of the library's student workers!



For more information on the League of Women Voters, scan the QR code!

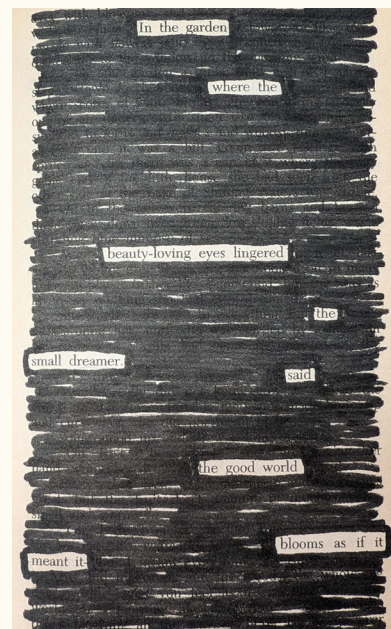
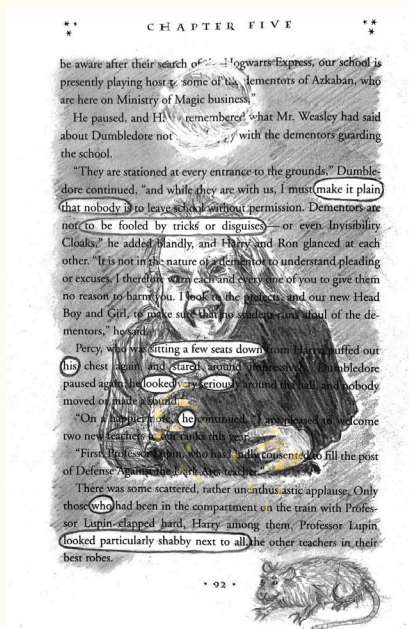
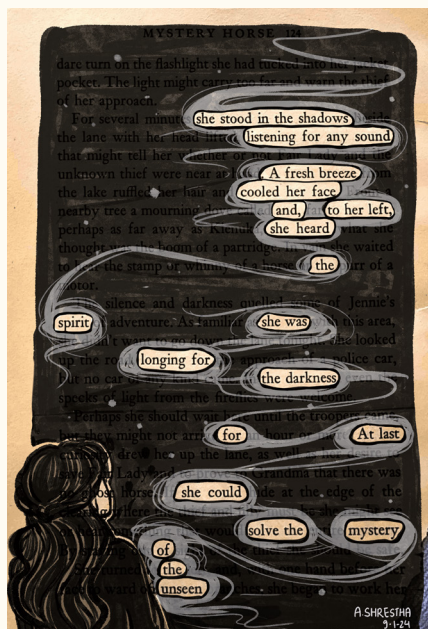


BLACKOUT POETRY CONTEST

Blackout Poetry is a creative form of writing where existing text, often from books, newspapers, or magazines, is transformed into a poem by blacking out words, leaving behind a select few to form new meaning. This form of poetry encourages readers to reinterpret the original material, creating a layer of meaning that contrasts or complements the source.

This semester's contest ran from Aug. 21 through Sept 18, and was open to any current UCO student. The top prize of a \$500 tuition waiver was enough incentive to garner creative and thoughtful submissions. There were 49 total submissions, giving the judges a tough job of choosing a winner. Aakankshya Shrestha, a computer science student, was ultimately chosen as the 1st place winner. Not only was her prose inventive, but the way she blacked out her page was creative and fresh. Anuja Poulo received a \$300 UCO tuition waiver for 2nd place, and Elizabeth Ellis took 3rd place to receive a \$200 waiver.

The winners and a selection of submissions were displayed on the 1st floor in a Blackout Poetry exhibit, which was on display throughout the month of October. Congratulations to the winners and students who participated. It is clear that this contest has become a favorite among our students.



1ST PLAGE

AAKANKSHYA SHRESTHA

“Choosing the right page was key. On a quick scan of one of the pages, I caught the words “mystery” and “spirit” and I knew I could play with the rest of the words to sculpt out a poem. It was like trying to piece together a jigsaw puzzle without knowing the final picture.”

2ND PLAGE

ANJUA POULO

“Honestly, my sister just picked a random page in one of the books we had lying around and felt okay with defiling (or adorning), and from there my archived Harry Potter knowledge came out and helped me brainstorm different ways to spin the text to mean something more interesting. My siblings helped a bit with the symbolism, so that was especially exciting to see come together!”

3RD PLAGE

ELIZABETH ELLIS

“I chose page 31 because of my age, and I was pleasantly surprised to find that it was when Anne was admiring the beauty of Green Gables. I loved the magical and dreamy language she used and tried to let that shine through.”

NICOLE WILLARD RETIRES

The University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) has long been a hub of academic achievement, and one of its most treasured resources is its archives department, where history, culture, and education converge. Over the past three decades, one individual has played a pivotal role in shaping UCO's archival landscape—Nicole Willard. From 1992 to 2024, she served as a vital force in the university's archives, collections, exhibitions, and education programs, building a legacy that continues to influence generations of students, faculty, and visitors alike.

Nicole Willard's journey with the UCO Archives began in 1992 after she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the university between 1990 and 1994. Her passion for preserving history and sharing it with the public led her to a career as a full-time archivist. Over the years, Nicole worked alongside multiple UCO Presidents, including George Nigh, W. Roger Webb, Don Betz, Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar, Andrew Benton (Interim), and Todd Lamb.

Each president benefited from her expertise in managing the university's institutional memory, ensuring UCO's history was preserved alongside the broader historical and cultural shifts of Oklahoma and beyond.

One of Nicole's most significant accomplishments was her ability to bring new and diverse collections into the UCO Archives. From the mid-1990s through the early 2000s, she played a key role in acquiring several high-profile collections, which became vital resources for research, study, and public enjoyment. Among these were the Melton Collection, the Royal Airforce (RAF) in Oklahoma, and the Illustrated London News archive.

In addition to her archival work, Nicole was also a dedicated educator. She taught several courses designed to bridge the gap between archival theory and its practical application. Nicole taught Archival Management, Digital Storytelling, and Oral History in various semesters between 2008 and 2011, blending hands-on learning with the preservation skills students would later apply in their careers.

Nicole's contributions extended beyond the archives' walls. She played a leading role in curating and organizing numerous public exhibitions, offering a platform for the community to engage with UCO's rich historical collections. These exhibitions highlighted a variety of cultural, historical, and artistic themes, making UCO's archives a bridge between academic research and public education.

As the leader of the UCO Archives, Nicole also played a crucial role in securing funding and support for the department. Through her work with the Friends of the Library and continuous fundraising efforts, she ensured that the archives thrived even in times of financial challenges. Her efforts guaranteed the ongoing preservation of both UCO's history and the history of Oklahoma for future generations.

Nicole's work demonstrates the importance of preserving the past while embracing the future of archival practice, ensuring that UCO's history—and the history of Oklahoma—will endure for generations to come.

COURSES TAUGHT

Archival Administration

Exhibits in Archives & Special Collections

Oral History, Theory, and Practice

Digital Storytelling, Capturing Lives, Creating Community

History of the United States to 1877

History of the United States Since 1877

Introduction to Geography

Regional Geography

Introduction to Geographic Information System



NICOLE WILLARD RETIRES CONTINUED...

I had the privilege of working with Nicole for more than two decades. During the later years, Nicole filled a unique position in Max Chambers library. Nicole earned the position of Senior Director with her solid work ethics and dedication, her many years of contribution to the library and campus community, and being a strategic partner for me in leading the library. She played an important role in moving the library forward into a more modern era. We modernized services and spaces. We acknowledged the staff and their contributions in a more formalized way. We made the library more visible. So, I would say, not bad at all, Nicole. I wish Nicole the best in her next phase of life, whatever that is going to be. I will miss you, Nicole, but I am certain I am going to reach out to you, again, for more consultation. Last but not least, a heartfelt THANK YOU for all the support you have offered me in the last ten years.”

-Habib Tababtabi, Executive Director

Nicole Willard gave me my very first library job almost 30 years ago. I’m sure neither of us knew at the time how that opportunity was going to change the course of my life. To be able to work with her again, as a librarian (now with over 20 years of professional experience), was a special privilege. Nicole has been a mentor and a colleague and I am sure I’m not the only one impacted by her influence over the years. Nicole trusted me with projects as a young staff member that I get to see as important collections in the archives now. And recently as colleagues we were able to collaborate on projects to ensure the accessibility of the archives for many generations of people to come. I’ll miss working with her and wish her all the best in the future.

-Nicole Sump-Crethar, Director of Library Tech and Data Management



THANK YOU NICOLE!



180,286

FULL TEXT DOWNLOADS FROM E-RESOURCES

CHAMBERS LIBRARY

YEAR IN REVIEW

Each year Chambers Library serves thousands of students, faculty, staff and community members. Here's a closer look at what we were up to in the 2023-2024 academic year.



2,434

EQUIPMENT CHECKOUTS

RESEARCH & LEARNING

INSTRUCTION SESSIONS

68 IN LIBRARY/ VIRTUAL

18 AROUND CAMPUS

RESEARCH

123 IN LIBRARY/VIRTUAL

68 INTERACTIONS AROUND CAMPUS



270,119

WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS



169,714
LIBRARY VISITORS

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

6,231 QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY PEER CONSULTANTS & LIBRARIANS

TEXT MESSAGE



15

EMAIL



48

PHONE



253

IN-PERSON



5,705



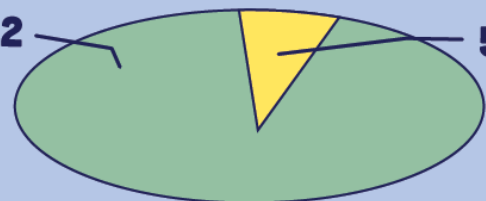
10,665

CHECKOUTS OF PHYSICAL MATERIALS

NEW MATERIALS

194,012 ITEMS ADDED TO THE COLLECTION

194,012



5,890

PHYSICAL ITEMS E RESOURCES



1,801

INTERLIBRARY LOANS



12 STUDY ROOMS

5,282

RESERVATIONS

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

KAYLEN BUCHANAN



Kaylen Buchanan, Library Specialist

The library is proud to congratulate Kaylen Buchanan as our Employee of the Quarter. Kaylen has been a Library Specialist with the Innovation Studio for a year as of November, and has been an exemplary employee, supervising student workers, planning open house events, experimenting with new ways of using the Studio's makerspace equipment, and generally making herself invaluable to the Studio and the library as a whole. In the words of her nominator "She's so nice every time we interact and always has a great attitude. It's great working with people like her!"

In addition to her work at the library, Kaylen has been finishing up her MLIS degree at the University of Oklahoma. She is an asset at UCO and we hope to keep her here for as long as we can, but we know that she has a great future ahead of her regardless. Way to go, Kaylen!

STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

VIANNKA GALARZA

We are excited to announce Viannka Galarza as our Student Employee of the Quarter! Viannka has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication, a positive attitude, and a strong work ethic in her role. Whether assisting patrons, helping with events, or supporting day-to-day operations, Viannka always goes above and beyond to ensure everything runs smoothly. Her ability to connect with both staff and visitors has made her a valuable asset to our team. We're proud to recognize her hard work and commitment!



Friends of Chambers Library
University of Central Oklahoma
Max Chambers Library
Campus Box 192
100 N. University Dr.
Edmond, OK 73034

Happy Holidays



Fall 2024 Intersession Hours
December 15, 2024 – January 12, 2025

Monday – Friday **7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.**
Saturday & Sunday **Closed**

Winter Break
Dec. 19 – Jan. 5 **Closed**

MLK Day
Jan. 20 **Closed**

Spring Break
Mar. 17 – Mar. 21 **Closed**

