

Progress Report

2025



University Libraries

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2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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Donald L. Gilstrap
Dean and Professor of University Libraries
Professor of Educational Leadership, Policy,
and Technology Studies
The University of Alabama
Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library
Music and Fine Arts Library
Angelo Bruno Business Library
Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering
University Libraries Archival Facility
William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library
A.S. Williams III Americana Collection
The University of Alabama Press
Alabama Heritage Magazine

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*honorary



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I am writing to you as University Libraries prepares to close out another impactful year. 2025 has been incredibly productive for our talented and dedicated faculty and staff, teaching 1,222 instruction sessions for 22,271 students. Faculty librarians also delivered several presentations for various national conferences and published numerous research articles in tier 1 peer-reviewed publications. Our membership in the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) has also shown good return on investment, increasing access to resources for our students and faculty, as well as our lending profile to other institutions. Our print and digital collections are larger and more heavily used today than they have ever been, with approximately 6,400,000 volumes and 3,000,000 eBooks available.

We made great strides in our Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library renovations, as contractors completed our Master Plan Phase III demolition project ahead of schedule in August. Phase III Gorgas Library additions are set to begin in June of 2026 which will create innovative spaces on floors 5, 6, and 7, including a dedicated Graduate Student and Faculty Commons, as well as the expansion of team workrooms and quiet study spaces for research. Once completed, we will turn our attention to the Henry Dean Wray Digital Scholarship Zone which will occupy the west side of the 1st floor. We are proud to provide the spaces and resources needed to support student, staff, and faculty success.

Entering the fall semester, we negotiated access for students, staff, and faculty to the Wall Street Journal Online, including use of the WSJ app, in addition to the historical content already available. We were delighted to welcome our new president Dr. Peter Mohler in September, who spoke at our faculty and staff breakfast meeting and participated in an illuminating extended Q & A session that followed, as well as tours of our facilities and meetings with my management teams. It is an exciting time to be at The University of Alabama!

On March 7th, after two years of planning and preparations, we hosted the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner, along with our partners The Alabama Center for the Book and The Alabama Writers' Forum. 2023 inductee and best-selling author Daniel Wallace served as Master of Ceremonies for a captivating evening of celebration of our great state's literary heritage. To put a bow on 2025, I am also proud to announce that, for the second time during the Rising Tide Capital Campaign, we once again succeeded in exceeding our fundraising goals!

To our generous donors, the University Libraries Leadership Board, and our faculty, staff, and student workers, I thank you for your support and dedication. Your contributions on behalf of students, staff, and faculty at UA make a difference every day, as we continue to create added value and return on investment for campus in all that we do. We invite you to peruse our Progress Report for 2025 which offers a snapshot of University Libraries strong commitment to research and innovation. Together, with the support of The University of Alabama's administration and the leadership in our Colleges and Units, we are shaping the future of education at The Capstone.

Roll Tide,
Dean Donald L. Gilstrap

Members of the UA family searched our databases almost 10,000,000 times, downloading approximately 4,000,000 articles and 1,300,000 E-books. Our liaison librarians taught over 1,200 classes that impacted more than 22,000 students. Our facilities hosted our stakeholders for approximately 530,000 hours of computer usage, and our faculty and staff answered nearly 30,000 research questions.



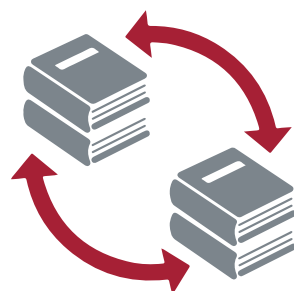
4,644,138 Website Views **916,990** Users **1,723,325** Sessions



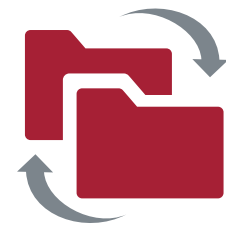
2,998,714 E-Books
238,971 E-Journals



177 Countries Accessing our Site



19,294 Total Interlibrary Loans



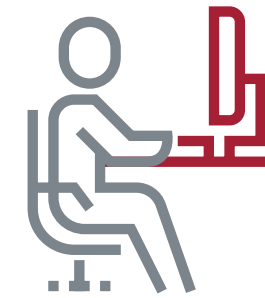
29,096 Research Questions

1,222 Classes Taught

22,271 Students Attending

950,632 LibGuide Views

101,497 YouTube Views



535,018 Hours of Computer Usage
220,646 Computer Logins

603 Computers

131 Software Packages



309,557 Total Streaming Audio/Visual Titles

706 Total Number of Databases

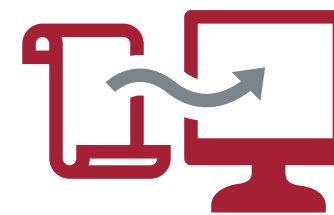
6,383,334 Total Volumes



1,276,626 E-Book Downloads

9,829,607 Database Searches

3,948,759 Database Full-text Downloads



38,120 Archival Items Digitized

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES MASTER PLAN PHASE III GORGAS LIBRARY DEMOLITION PROJECT COMPLETED IN 2025

Collectively representing the largest classroom on campus, University Libraries facilities are essential for creating learning and research environments for on-campus students, staff, and faculty. The Phase III demolition work has paved the way for incorporating new spaces focused on team-based projects, interdisciplinary scholarship, and advanced technologies in the physical and intellectual heart of campus, Gorgas Library. These upcoming new spaces and technologies set the stage for students to learn and master the research, technology and critical thinking skills necessary to compete in a global workforce. We look forward to 2026 and the completion of Phase III improvements to Gorgas Library with highlights depicted in these artist's renderings.



Artist's rendering, Grand Reading Room, Gorgas Library

The University Libraries Master Plan Phase III demolition project for Gorgas Library began at the end of May 2025 and was completed ahead of schedule in August. Floors 5, 6, and 7 saw walls, ceilings, floors and mechanical removed and abated to make way for the renovation portion of Phase III set to begin in June of 2026. Once completed, we will move on to phase IV, which creates innovative spaces on floors 5, 6, and 7, including a dedicated Faculty and Graduate Student Commons, as well as an expansion of team research rooms and quiet study spaces. Next up will be the Henry Dean Wray Digital Scholarship Zone, a hub for innovation on the west side of the 1st floor of Gorgas Library.



Artist's rendering, Graduate Student and Faculty Commons, Gorgas Library



Artist's rendering, Digital Scholarship Zone, Gorgas Library

2025 ALABAMA WRITERS HALL OF FAME Induction Ceremony



On March 7th, after two years of planning and preparations, University Libraries hosted the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner, along with our partners The Alabama Center for the Book and The Alabama Writers' Forum. The 2025 class inductees included authors Ace Atkins, Frye Gaillard, Joy Harjo, Janice Harrington, Robert McCammon, and Dr. Sue Walker. Authors C. Eric Lincoln and Brad Watson were inducted posthumously. 2023 inductee and best-selling author Daniel Wallace served as Master of Ceremonies for a captivating and enchanting evening of celebration of our great state's literary heritage.



For attendees and honorees alike, the enchantment began before the ceremony as the Northridge String Quartet of Tuscaloosa City Schools played while a crowd gathered for the pre-induction cocktail reception. The honorees and their guests were pleased to find their tables decorated with thoughtful and striking centerpieces, inspired by the writing and life of the individual nominee, which featured memorabilia, books, and images specific to that writer's life and career. These table settings are the creations of long serving University Libraries Leadership Board member Julie Friedman, the 2025 Gala Chair.

After a three-course dinner and welcoming comments by Dean Donald Gilstrap, and Richard Evans, executive director of Alabama Writers' Forum, awards were given. The Alabama Writers' Cooperative (AWC) was the inaugural recipient of the first Jeanie Thompson Champion of the Literary Arts Award, named in honor of the Alabama Writers' Forum founder and long-time executive director. AWC president Jessica Jones Langston accepted the award for her organization, which has served Alabama writers since 1923. Following the award, a video tribute to Julie Friedman, Don Noble, and Jeanie Thompson, the three pillars of the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame, was played and all received a standing ovation for their tireless efforts and longstanding support.

Alabama Writers Hall of Fame Inductees





Ace Atkins, the acclaimed author of grit and wit-filled suspense thrillers – both fact-based and fiction – began his career as a journalist after playing football for Auburn University where, he admitted, football “cut into my time of reading.” His mystery series, including a stint with the “Spenser” novels, and standalone crime novels have cemented his place as a master storyteller. In his acceptance of the honor, Atkins noted that Alabama’s “strength comes from our diversity.”

Historian, journalist, writer, and teacher Frye Gaillard has used his personal and world experience to examine aspects of American life and the American experience. He took time in his acceptance comments to recall a chilling anecdote of life in Jim Crow Alabama that fellow honoree C. Eric Lincoln shared with him. In terms of receiving the Hall of Fame honor, Gaillard commented that, with his life of writing, it is “very nice when somebody notices.”



Mrs. Julie Friedman, Gala Chair

When the time came for the Hall of Fame inductions, honorary chair Daniel Wallace took the lectern to introduce the eight 2025 inductees. As a previous inductee, Wallace shared words of experience with the incoming class. He assured them that, after their induction, “you’ll never have to write anymore . . . not even email.” Another, unpublicized, perk is that you will have “Don Noble reading you to sleep at night.” Next the inductees were announced, a short video tribute was played and the honoree or their representative came onstage to accept their Hall of Fame medallion. The videos were produced by Robert Briscoe of the Alabama Center for Public Television and Michael Pearce of the Alabama Center for the Book and the University of Alabama Libraries, and were narrated by Don Noble.

Not all living 2025 honorees still reside in Alabama and a few were not born in the state, but, for each inductee, the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame was a homecoming to those things which shaped and defined their lives and literary careers.

Poet, musician, playwright, activist, and author Joy Harjo was the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States. “You never have poetry at career day,” she said, explaining how she found “the path of the writer” as an undergraduate. A member of the Muscogee Nation, Harjo detailed her Native ancestry in Alabama before the Trail of Tears, speaking of “coming back to our homelands . . . coming home.” She claims Alabama as a home, so it is fitting that we claim her, too.





Less Lincoln accepted the posthumous Hall of Fame honor on behalf of his father, C. Eric Lincoln (1924-2000). An ordained Methodist minister, Athens, Alabama, native Dr. Lincoln was a pioneering sociologist who wrote extensively about the African American religious experience. His son recounted stories of growing up in a household with renowned scholars, activists, and religious leaders as frequent visitors. He urged those gathered to “reach further” and build community in the quest for justice.

Robert McCammon wrote fiction on the side while working as a copywriter after college. Frustrated in his efforts to write features, he detailed how he got off the copy desk and started to write the novels – horror, Gothics, mystery, suspense – which have garnered awards and recognition across six decades. Leaving the copy desk, he said, “turned out to be the best thing in the world” as he continues to explore the “mystery and suspense story of life.”

“I’m so proud, I’m gonna have to go to church and beg forgiveness,” said poet, storyteller, teacher, and children’s writer Janice Harrington. She shared stories of the memories she cherishes of her Alabama childhood, often associated with the sounds of skillets and telling stories in her grandmother’s kitchen. She noted that her grandmother always listened to her stories, calling being listened to “the greatest gift.”



Poet, author, publisher, editor, and teacher Sue Brannan Walker always has projects in the works. Her stewardship of Negative Capability Press, books of poetry and prose, and years as Alabama’s Poet Laureate brought her writing to a wide-ranging audience. Walker talked about life as an adopted child and commented that “all of my life, I have gone around creating family.” Back in Tuscaloosa for the honor, she proudly stated, “I was here when the Bear was here.”

For those who knew Brad Watson (1955-2020), Jason Watson’s memories of his father captured his warm and generous personality and humor. Jason talked about his father’s family, travel, jobs, and humility at his literary success through much-acclaimed novels and short story collections. He confided that Watson considered a stint as a garbage man to be “the best job he ever had. He loved that job.”



Alabama Writers’ Forum’s Richard Evans observed that, “The members of the 2025 Class of the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame embody what is great about our state’s literary culture. From journalists, poets, and historians to children’s book authors and masters of horror, this year’s class has joined the pantheon of great Alabama writers whose legacy will be forever enshrined among our state’s contribution to American literature.” Dean Donald Gilstrap said of the event, “I know that those who supported the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame with their attendance this year were very impressed by the incredible talent of authors that the great State of Alabama continues to produce!”



Michael Pearce, director of strategic engagement for University Libraries and director of the Alabama Center for the Book had this to say about the 2025 Hall of Fame class. “What stood out to me is that for such a diverse group of writers, with varying life experiences, their messages blended in such a logical and meaningful way. The 2025 class is very special in my mind. I believe that only Alabama could produce such a rich variety of life experiences and literary talents that, when brought together for one special evening, effortlessly overcome as a group whatever differences of experience, genre, and subject matter are inherent in their writing. I came away from the event with a vision of a wonderful tapestry weaved by the inductees, one that encompasses the joys and sorrows that have shaped our great state.”

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The primary function of special collections within a research library is to promote teaching, research, and scholarship by providing students and faculty access to items of enduring historical value while ensuring their longevity through physical and digital preservation. We collect and preserve materials that document the following key areas of focus in support of research and curricular needs:

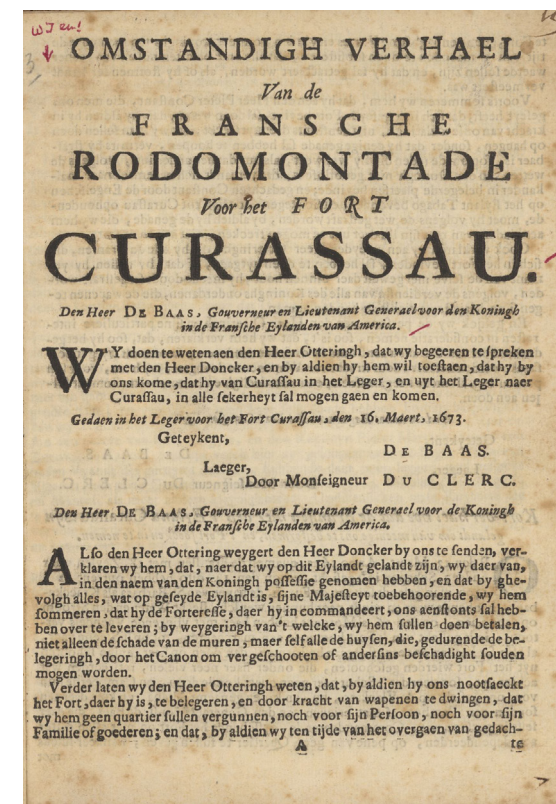
- Alabama history and culture, 18th century – present
- Commerce, exploration, and settlement of territory in the Caribbean and Central and South America 16th century – early 19th century
- Southern history and culture, 17th century – present
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- Slavery, abolition, and emancipation
- African American history with special emphasis on the Civil Rights Movement
- University of Alabama history, 1831 – present

“We are proud to share our accomplishments and notable additions to our collections in 2025.” Jessica Robertson, Head of Special Collections.

FY 2025 PROJECTS

- Arranged, rehoused, and created archival description for over 390 records boxes in the Senator Richard C. Shelby collection, including photographs, press clippings, travel files, and constituent correspondence.
- Continued processing and preservation of over 15TB of born digital records in the Senator Richard C. Shelby collection. Processing steps include determining content redundancy, converting files to preservation formats, identifying and redacting personally identifiable and sensitive information, and creating disk images for future access.
- Digitized to preservation technical standards 215 legacy audio-visual media items in the Senator Richard C. Shelby collection, including 47 U-Matic Tapes, 4 Broadcast Reels, 39 Betacam Tapes, and 125 VHS Tapes.
- Digitized 3,715 items totaling 38,120 scans for publication in our CONTENTdm digital collections management system. Notable additions to digital collections include the Marguerite Le Noir De Rouvray, Comtesse de Lostanges Papers; University Archives photographs; Geological Survey of Alabama Photographs; and the University of Alabama Graduate Catalog. CONTENTdm currently houses 1,073,945 digital scans amounting to over 167,924 compound objects.
- Provided 100 instruction sessions, highlighting Special Collections materials and reaching approximately 1,540 student attendees. Special Collections was also the service provider for 860 complex historical research questions.
- Transferred 173 linear feet of materials from Special Collections to the Archival Facility for permanent storage.
- Provided 2,067 digital scans for publication or exhibitions. Special Collections digital images have been used in projects developed by the Gorgas House, the Student Government Association, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Furman University, Birmingham Historical Society, White House Historical Association, Baylor University Mayborn Museum, and Winterthur Museum.
- Completed year one of a two-year grant project to digitize primary source materials documenting the history of coal and iron production in Alabama. The project is made possible by funding from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission (NHPRC). Approximately 25,250 pages from the Brierfield Ironworks records, Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company records, and the Shelby Iron Company records have been digitized for web delivery in CONTENTdm.

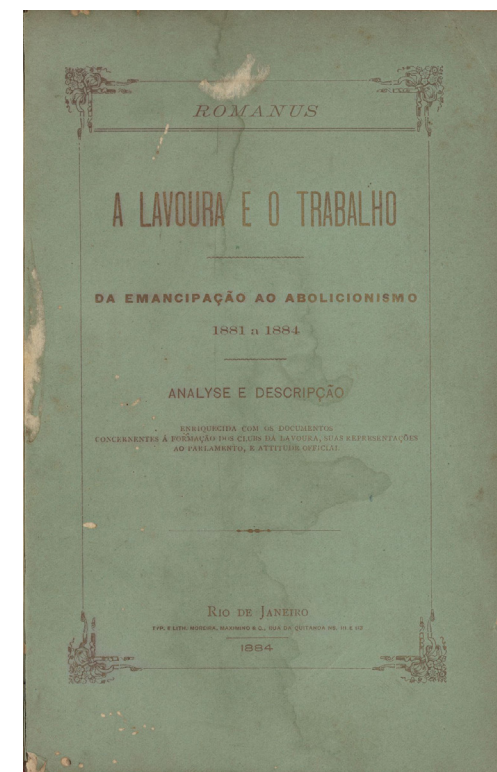
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS – Recent Acquisitions



- Jan Doncker Report on the French Attack on Curaçao. This collection contains the first and only edition of Jan Doncker's report of the French attack on Curaçao in 1673. Printed, bound, and based on Doncker's notes, the four-page report is entitled "Omstandigh Verhael van de Fransche Rodomontade voor the Fort Curassau." It begins with two letters, transcribed in Dutch, from Jean-Charles de Baas, the governor and lieutenant general of the French Antilles from 1669 to 1677. The first is dated March 16, 1673, and is addressed to Doncker's predecessor, Dirk Otterinck, who had been the Dutch governor of Curaçao from 1670 to 1673. Doncker, a merchant who had recently succeeded Otterinck, had ignored the correspondence, which sparked a second letter from de Bass, stating that the French had taken possession of Curaçao and demanded surrender.



Jessica Robertson, Alex Boucher, and Jeremiah Colonna-Romano discussing a digitization project



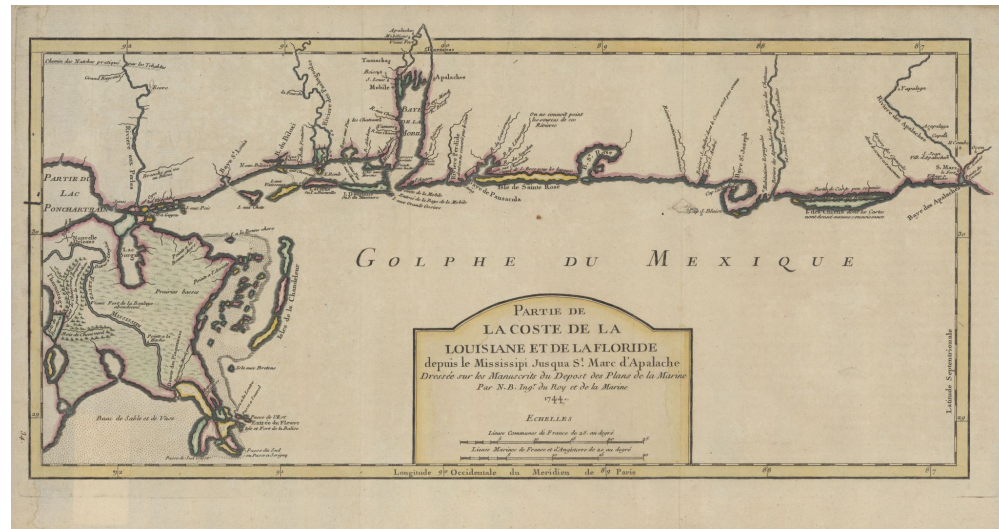
- Brazilian Publication Outlining Emancipation and Abolition From 1881 to 1884. This collection contains *A lavoura e o trabalho. Da emancipação ao abolicionismo, 1881 a 1884. Analyse e descrição enriquecida com os documentos concernentes á formação dos clubs dá lavoura, suas representações ao parlamento, e attitude official*. Written under the pseudonym "Romanus" and published in 1884, the book explores the process of Brazilian abolition under Dom Pedro II. It examines a critical period in Brazilian history, noting events that spanned from 1881 to 1884, when Brazil was transitioning from gradual emancipation to universal abolition.

Visit our digital Collections
<https://digitalcollections.libraries.ua.edu/>



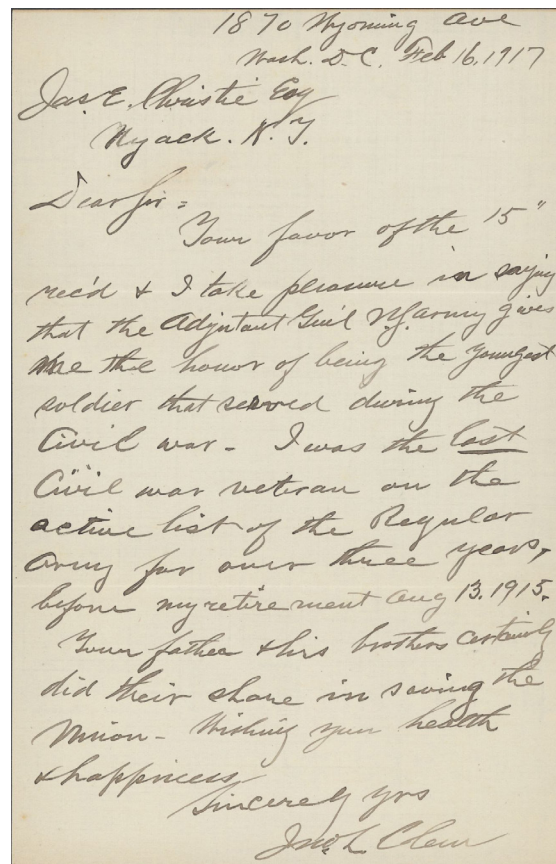
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS – Recent Acquisitions

- Partie de la coste de la Louisiane et de la Floride : depuis le Mississipi jusqua St. Marc d'Apalache (1744), G4012.C6 1744 .B4. The coastline includes from Apalachicola Bay and St. Marc in western Florida to St. Joseph's Bay and Pensacola, to Mobile Bay, to Biloxi and Bay St. Louis, as well as Lake Ponchartrain and New Orleans, Lake Borgne and the Mississippi River to the Delta. On either side of the River are sand and mud banks, including an area of woods called "Bois de Chene Verd Propre pour la Construction." Fort La Boulaye is located and noted as having been abandoned. The chart is drawn from manuscript sketches brought back to Paris by Pierre Francois Xavier de Charlevoix (1682-1761) a Jesuit Priest who traveled through Canada and



North America's eastern regions from 1705-1720. Engraved under the direction of Jacques Nicolas Bellin (1703-1761), the Royal Hydrographer to the King in Paris, the chart was included in L'Histoire et Description Generale de la Nouvelle France, published in Paris in 1744.

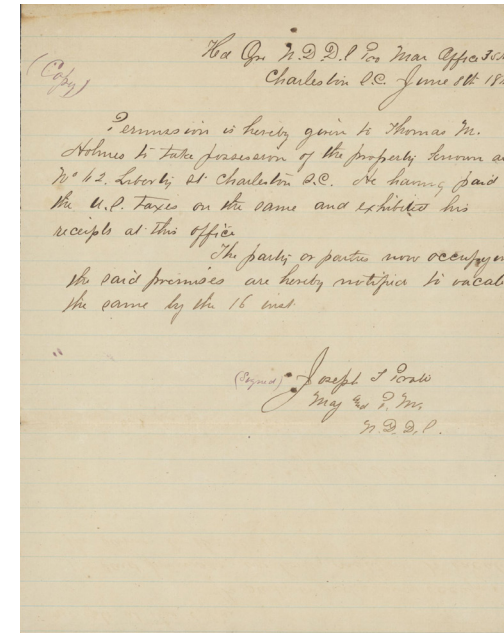
- Letter from John Clem to James Christie, MSS 4722. John Lincoln Clem (1851–1937) was a notable figure in American military history, best known as the youngest noncommissioned officer to serve in the Civil War. Born on August 13, 1851, in Newark, Ohio, Clem gained fame as the "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga" after reportedly shooting a Confederate officer who demanded his surrender. Though initially rejected due to his age, he unofficially joined the 22nd Michigan Infantry and later became a drummer boy. His bravery on the battlefield earned him a promotion to sergeant at the age of 12, making him the youngest noncommissioned officer in U.S. Army history.



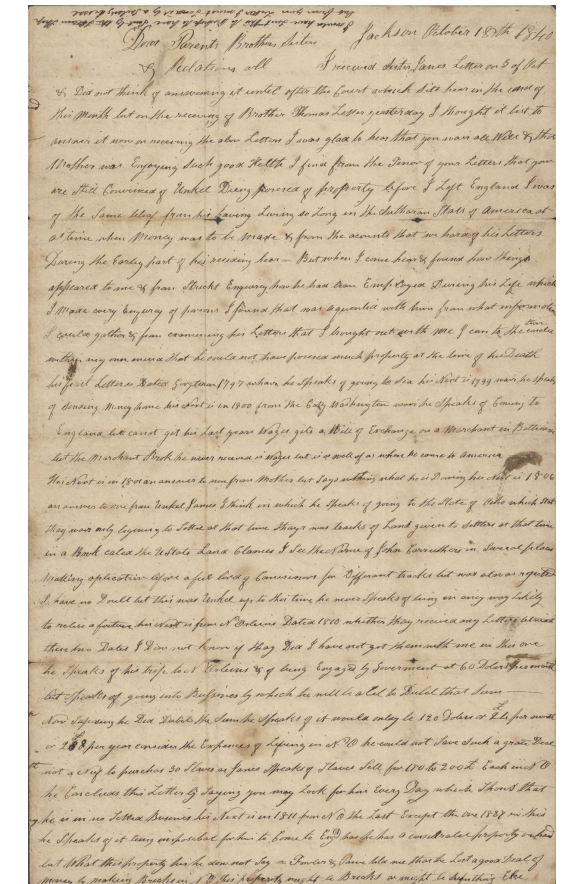
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS – Recent Acquisitions



- Alabama National Guard Photographic Album, 1916. In 1916, prior to the construction of Camp McClellan near Anniston, Alabama, National Guard units, including those from Alabama, were stationed in temporary camps around the Choccolocco Mountains. These mobilizations occurred in response to nationwide military readiness efforts during the Mexican Border Crisis.



- Thomas M. Holmes Property Order, MSS 4773. The collection consists of a single signed document dated June 8, 1865, from Charleston, South Carolina, granting Thomas M. Holmes, a free person of color, permission to take possession of the property located at No. 62 Liberty Street. Issued on Holmes's behalf, the order states that Holmes has paid the United States property taxes on the premises and instructs the current occupants to vacate by June 16, 1865. The document reflects the shifting property ownership and civil rights dynamics during the early Reconstruction period and offers evidence of Holmes's legal and political standing in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War.



- Dixon Family Letters, MSS 4726. The Dixon Family Letters consist of six manuscript letters written between 1840 and 1844 by William Dixon and his wife, English emigrants who settled in Mobile, Alabama, and later in Jackson, Missouri. Addressed to their family in England, these letters provide a firsthand account of the emigrant experience in the Southern United States during the early 19th century.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AND THE RISING TIDE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



THE RISING TIDE™

A CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA*

Like single drops of water, we are each limited in what we can accomplish on our own. But as individual drops coalesce, we become a force strong enough to transform the landscape of the world around us.

Nearly 10 years ago, alumni, students, faculty, staff, patrons, and supporters embarked on a watershed opportunity that has transcended anything the University has previously experienced. Exceeding our goal of \$1.8 billion in 2025, we have set the standard for higher education in our state. As we enter the final year of the Rising Tide Capital Campaign, we will continue to break records and win the future, building upon the most ambitious and successful fundraising in the history of the state of Alabama.

Philanthropic giving is a key driver of excellence in the UA experience. Gifts allow the University to expand opportunities for students through scholarships, fellowships, and programs for leadership development, as well as to advance our research efforts and bolster our already competitive facilities and athletic programs.

For decades, The University of Alabama has attracted the best and brightest students from around the globe. UA is consistently a top choice for many of our nation's most academically distinguished students. They make their way to The Capstone to experience an unmatched campus environment, to engage with world-renowned faculty, and to prepare for careers of service and leadership.

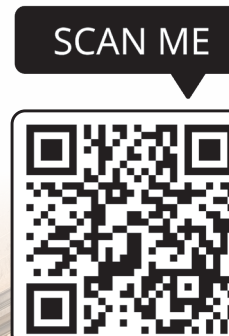
This is why elite companies and organizations look to our flagship university each year to recruit the next wave of business developers, scientists, teachers, engineers, and future leaders of every facet of modern society. The impact of The Rising Tide Capital Campaign will allow The University of Alabama to further elevate its students as future legends, to dominate the fields of research and scholarship, to lift its alumni to new heights, and to develop the potential within us to serve, support, and lead communities near and far.

The well-known saying, "a rising tide lifts all boats," is personified in spirit and truth by University Libraries, as the resources and services we provide support the success of all students and faculty of The University of Alabama. Advancements in the quality of University Libraries facilities, technologies, collections, services, and programs have played a major role in the recruitment and retention of UA students and faculty. Our investments have paid other impactful dividends for the University as well.

An unprecedented 69 UA students have been named Goldwater Scholars. The University of Alabama has produced a total of 17 Rhodes Scholars, 16 Truman Scholars, 45 Hollings Scholars, and 21 Boren Scholars through 2025. The University of Alabama is a leader among public universities nationwide in the number of National Merit Scholars, with 362 enrolled in the 2025 freshman class. There are currently 39 faculty who have received NSF Career awards, the nation's most prestigious recognition for young scientists. Finally, The University of Alabama was named as a Top Producing Institution for Fullbright Scholars eight times in the last 10 years.

The Rising Tide represents a powerful wave of students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters whose collective influence is greater than what any of us can accomplish individually. Together, we are a force strong enough to transform the landscape of the world around us. A gift to University Libraries is one that lifts all who teach and attend The University of Alabama. Together, we have exceeded the University Libraries goal of The Rising Tide Capital Campaign. Because of your support we will enhance our previous investments, grow the intellectual heart and physical center of the campus, and lift all boats on The Rising Tide.

*For our Capital Campaign Prospectus please visit
<https://risingtide.ua.edu/libraries/> or scan this QR code.*



ENDOWMENTS AND GIFTS 2025

The creation of endowments, major gifts, and individual monetary donations supports the advancement of The University of Alabama Libraries. During this past year, donations and funds from endowments were used to purchase new books and media for our collections, improve library spaces, and assist in staffing.

We would especially like to recognize and thank those who provided major gifts, those who preserve the legacy of The University of Alabama through their establishment of endowments, and those who have contributed at the individual level.

Your gifts afford us the tools and opportunities to advance the educational and research mission of the University while supporting our faculty and students to achieve their greatest potential, create change, and positively influence the world.

2025 MAJOR GIFTS

Suzanne Bruno Bowness
Ronald Bruno
Dr. Margaret Stieg Dalton
James & Julie Stephens
Joyce Yancey Hanrahan
Dedie & Bill Hendrix

Philip Kitchens
Joan & Wray Pearce
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
James Simon
Susan S. Tolbert

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Jack Morris & Dawn Vivian Ivy
Mildred L. Jackson
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Elizabeth Lavanna
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Blake Alan Lawson
Caren Lillich Leon
James H. Looney
Jeanette H. Lynn
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The University of Alabama Alumni Assoc.
Lorraine Madway
Charlotte B. Marshall
Elaine A. Martin
Monika Martin
Jeanette McCormick
Shirley D. McCrary
Huey Green & Bunnie S. McDaniel
Young Emory McDaniel
James Hill McLemore
Paul Joseph McNeil
Traci Leigh Mitchell
John Trussell Murdock
Elizabeth A. Netemeyer
James L. Nicholas, Jr.
Nick's Kids Fund
Alana Kristin Norris
Linda Lane Overton
Charles R. Paler
R. K. Pandey
Virginia Thomas Pate
Elizabeth Bolton Patton
J. Wray and Joan B. Pearce
Voncile Roberts Pearce
Michael Wray Pearce
John Matthew Perry

Gary M. Phillips
Shirley B. Plattenburg
Robert H. Pontbriand
Allen Powell
Progress Study Club
Wylheme H. Ragland
Patricia C. Ratkovich
Virgil Delbert Reed
Regions Financial Corp. Foundation
H. Mark Reynolds
Tyler Rhodes
Lindsay Rice
William E. Rodrigues
Jennifer E. Romine
Rucker and Margaret Agee Fund
R. Timothy Russell
William Arnold Schoel
Margaret A. Smith
Rhoda Graves Smith
Patricia A. Sobecky
LaSamuel Stallworth
James T. Stephens
William J. Stevens
George Allen & Elinor Stone
Suzanne Lavanna Stone
John Haas Strother
Roger A. & Alice J. Talbert
Massimiliano Terzi
Celeste Elizabeth Thomas
Marly Dukes Thomas
Jean Frances Thompson
Duan Tian
Nancy Ellen Johnson Tucker
Wayne J. Urban
Andrew Vernon
Carolyn W. Walker
William W. Walker Jr.
Kathryn Wallace
Donnelly Faye Walton
Kevon & Ellen Watson
John C. Watters
Darin Wade & Laura White
Sarah Woolfolk Wiggins
James S. Williams
Margaret M. Wilson
Thomas C. Wilson
Beverly Phifer Wingard
Thomas W. Woolley
Paul David Wright

COLLECTION, SERVICE, AND SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

Annual income from endowments allows University Libraries to continue providing key resources for students and faculty. Endowments begin at \$25,000. Donors may make a single gift or pledge over a number of years.

Collections

Glynn B. and John P. Case Endowed Support Fund - Angelo Bruno Business Library
The Denny Undergraduate Endowment
Jim McHugh Endowed Library Excellence Fund - Early Childhood Special Education
D. Joseph and Sandra W. McInnes Endowed Undergraduate Initiative Library Excellence Fund - Blount Undergraduate Initiative
James and Elaine Moore Endowed Collections Support Fund - Angelo Bruno Business Library
Bertha Ray Trammell Endowed Library Fund - Human Environmental Sciences
Greek Endowed Library Support Fund - American Biographies

Collections – Business

Margaret and Walter Batson Endowed Support Fund
The J. Clemson Duckworth Endowed International Business Serials Fund
The Thomas Jefferson Jones, III Memorial Library Excellence Endowment in Commerce
The J. Barry Mason Endowed Support Fund for Business Library Research and Learning
James and Elaine Moore Endowed Collections Support Fund
The Bennett A. Smothers Endowed C&BA Library Fund

Special Collections

Jeff Coleman Endowed Library Book Support Fund in Memory of Jefferson Franklin Jackson
Professor Dwight L. Eddins Southern Literature and Culture Endowment
Southern Writers Griffith-Howington Endowed Support Fund
Joyce Haguewood & William Edward Lamont Endowed Library Fund
William Stanley Hoole Endowment Fund
Kirby Jackson Quasi-Endowment Fund
Joseph Neely Miller Endowment for Special Collections
Frank D. Parnham Memorial Endowed Library Support Fund
Lois Robertson Endowed Support Fund
Lois Bell Ross Endowed Library Support Fund for the Gorgas Southern History Collection
Elise Sanguinetti Endowed Library Support Fund
Donna I. Sorensen Collection: The Accomplishments of Southern Women Endowed Support Fund
Charles G. Summersell Endowed Maritime History Fund
John Norton Todd III Memorial Endowment
Mary Phyllis Jackson Todd Endowed Library Fund

Collections – Humanities

Daniel Monroe and Amanda Delight Lessley Carmichael Memorial Endowed Fund - Religion and Philosophy
Ella Richardson Davis Endowed Book Fund - Linguistics
Dr. Sarah Wiggins History Fund - History
Lillian Gatchell Endowed Book Fund - History
Dora H. and Allen J. Going Endowed Library Support Fund - History
Charles A. and Anne M. Paler Endowed Library Fund - Humanities
John Dennis Tibbits Library Endowment - Poetry

Collections – General

Brigadier General George Doherty Johnston Library Support Fund
Henry P. Johnston Jr., 1st Lt., USAF, Library Support Fund
Henry Poellnitz Johnston Library Support Fund
William H. and Eleanor Hitt Morgan Endowed Book Fund
The Wray & Joan Pearce Library Support Gift Fund
Sue Clarkson Phifer Memorial Endowed Library Excellence Fund
Louise Feagin Johnston Library Support Fund

Collections – Science and Technology

Daniel J. Houghton Memorial Endowment
Edith and Richard Ainsworth Endowed Library Support Fund
Hattie Watson Taylor Endowed Memorial Library Fund

Excellence Endowments

Raymon J. and Marjorie Baker Endowed Library Excellence Fund
John Bigham Barnett Endowed Library Excellence Fund
The Ann and Angelo Bruno Family Endowed Fund for Excellence
The Case Library Excellence Fund
Patricia S. Henderson Endowed Scholarship for University Libraries staff members continuing their education
The Russell-Hendrix University Libraries Endowment for Excellence
The Thomas Jefferson Jones, III Memorial Library Excellence Endowment

Service Awards

University Libraries Leadership Board Awards
Faculty Service Award
Staff Service Award
Student Service Award

Our development team has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this report. Please let us know if you see any errors or omissions. Every gift is important to our mission. More than any other single entity, University Libraries touches the entire University; we are the center of our flagship institution. You can help guarantee that our students and faculty will receive the tools and opportunities needed to achieve their highest potential by making an investment in University Libraries. For information on how to make a cash gift, establish an endowment or planned gift, contact:

Michael Pearce
Director of Strategic Engagement
The University of Alabama Libraries
Box 870266
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
205-348-1416
pearc007@ua.edu



To learn more about ways to give, or make a gift online today visit <https://www.lib.ua.edu/ua-libraries-giving/>

RESEARCH DATA SERVICES IN 2025

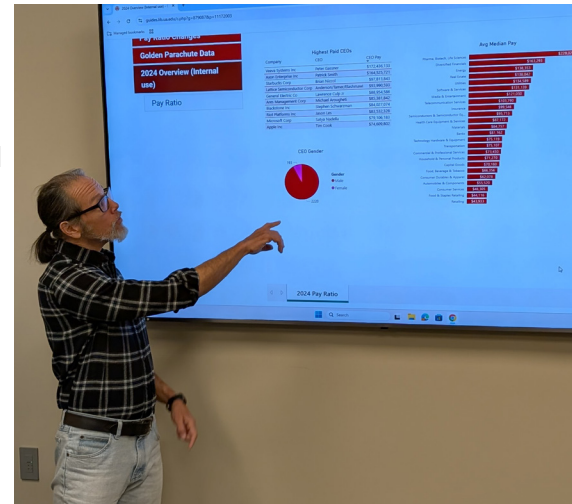
For nearly a decade, Research Data Services has anchored the efforts of University Libraries to support data-driven research and instruction. From its earliest days, the program has provided students with the tools and training needed to explore data, develop transferable skills, and build research workflows grounded in reproducibility and analytical thinking. This year marked a pivotal point in the program's evolution. In response to growing demand for advanced computational support, University Libraries expanded its research infrastructure with the launch of Research Computing—an adjacent service designed to assist with high-performance computing, artificial intelligence workflows, and automation techniques.

Throughout FY25, librarians delivered 139 instructional workshops across the disciplines under the umbrella of Research Data Services. With expanded emphasis on data organization and cleaning, as well as analysis and visualization, the program continued to adapt its instructional portfolio to meet the changing needs of learners. Core offerings included introductory sessions in Python and R, along with workshops in Power BI, Tableau, and Excel. Whether offered as stand-alone sessions or course-integrated engagements, these programs helped students build job-ready skills in data preparation, analysis, and presentation.

In addition to its emphasis on professional data skills, Research Data Services also supports researchers pursuing advanced academic and scholarly work. This includes targeted assistance with tools such as Qualtrics, NVivo, SPSS, ArcGIS, Zotero, RefWorks, and EndNote—software widely used by upper-level undergraduate learners and graduate students engaged in original research. Support is often delivered through one-on-one consultations or instruction embedded in research-intensive courses, helping students and faculty alike navigate the complexities of data collection, project design, and scholarly communication.

In response to growing demand for evidence synthesis methodologies—particularly in the health and social sciences—Research Data Services expanded its support for systematic and scoping reviews. The program provided guidance on tools such as Covidence and Rayyan, along with support for protocol development, database selection, and collaborative team workflows. Research Data Services also continued to support sponsored research proposals by assisting with data management planning, including use of the DMPTool, the Open Science Framework (OSF), and best practices for organizing and sharing research data through institutional and disciplinary repositories.

As Research Computing extends the capacity of University Libraries to serve highly specialized research workflows, Research Data Services is likewise refining its mission to focus on students and early-stage researchers who are developing their skills and building confidence with data. The result is a more focused, student-centered service model that empowers learners to begin or strengthen their engagement with data-driven research, regardless of discipline or level of expertise.



"The pace of growth of RDS is a snapshot of the evolving research landscape, something I am proud to be a part of,"

—Mark Siciliano
Business Analytics Librarian
Bruno Business Library

INTRODUCING RESEARCH COMPUTING SERVICES

In response to the expanded campus needs related to computational methods, in 2025 University Libraries developed and deployed Research Computing Services (RCS). RCS supports faculty, staff, and students with introductory computational research through instruction, tutorials, and consultations. RCS currently includes two faculty librarians, one full-time staff member, and six student programmers.

The RCS Team offers guidance and training in high-performance computing, machine learning, generative artificial intelligence, text and data mining, and workflow automation. Our team also collaborates on custom research projects, developing scripts for text/data processing or for transitioning local workflows to high performance computing environments. Walk-in help and scheduled consultations are available for coding and research support.

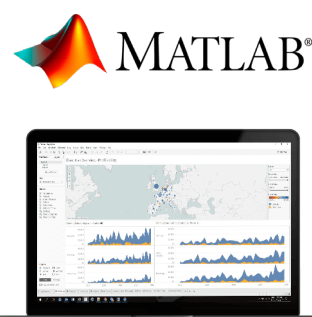
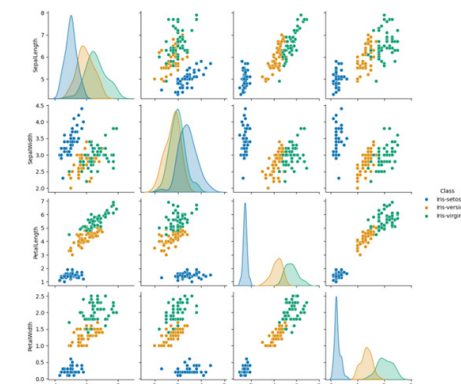
Starting in June 2025, the RCS Team delivered 15 workshops for the UA community machine learning with MATLAB, parallel computing with Python, and generative AI library database tools. RCS faculty and staff also assisted with 39 research computing one-on-one consultations. In partnership with the Office of Information Technology, we are actively engaged in the collaborative development of additional training materials and will continue to identify opportunities to support the UA High Performance Computing (HPC) and Data Center in alignment with the goals and strategic plan of University Libraries.

RCS is also actively developing new computing instructional materials for workshops and embedded curriculum instruction such as advanced data visualizations, local generative AI, and quantum computing. During the fall semester, RCS completed testing and updating of the Python tutorials in the University of Alabama Libraries Scholarly API Cookbook, a popular open educational resource for learning how to programmatically acquire datasets from databases https://ualibraries-research-data-services.github.io/UALIB_ScholarlyAPI_Cookbook

Lastly, RCS is currently piloting a University Libraries Data Services AI Chatbot internally with librarians. The Chatbot incorporates specific instructions and FAQ's related to our resources, facilities, and services that will augment our reference services in the future.



Dr. Vincent Scalfani, Dr. Rachel DuBose, and Dakeya Chambers working with student programmers.



ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT: THE CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING

This year University Libraries expanded our engagement with the Capstone College of Nursing, supporting research, instruction, and scholarly communication across undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. FY 2025 marked the first full year of service for faculty librarian Carly Rivera. From the outset, she brought energy and focus to the role—building partnerships with faculty, expanding doctoral research support, and working to embed research instruction more fully across the curriculum. Quoting Assistant Professor Janet Brown of CCS, “University Libraries supports the Capstone College of Nursing by providing research assistance, assistance with grant applications, journal subscriptions, reference sources, data storage and management, and by making available a dedicated librarian who is well versed in our research environment and needs. Carly’s work is extremely valuable to the students and faculty she serves.”

Discussing her first year engaging with nursing students for UA, Carly stressed that, “Working with the bright and inquisitive minds at the Capstone College of Nursing is truly a joy and is highly rewarding. Regardless of where a student or faculty member is in their research journey, I am always happy to serve their research needs.” Course-integrated instruction remained a key strategy this year, with support provided for several required courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, including Nursing 328/330, a foundational course in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, and Nursing 701, a research-focused course in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. Instruction sessions addressed essential research skills such as database navigation, effective literature searching, the use of controlled vocabulary (e.g., MeSH), and effective use of citation management tools.



These offerings help equip students with the information literacy skills necessary for evidence based practice and lifelong learning.

One-on-one research consultations continued to be a cornerstone of support, particularly for doctoral students pursuing the PhD (Doctor of Philosophy), DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice), and EdD (Doctor of Education) degrees. Carly and her librarian colleagues provided expert guidance in developing search strategies, identifying levels of evidence, selecting appropriate databases, and organizing literature, using tools such as NVivo and citation managers. Support for systematic and scoping reviews remained in high demand, especially among doctoral students and faculty engaged in research intensive projects.

Beyond instruction and consultations, Carly engaged in active outreach to faculty across the college and co-led a presentation with Scholarly Communications Librarian Elaine Walker on predatory publishing and open access best practices—a particularly important topic within the medical sciences. This engagement reflects a broader effort by University Libraries to support open and transparent research dissemination in nursing scholarship. With growing demand for embedded research instruction and evidence based synthesis support, University Libraries remains committed to building a robust model of research engagement in nursing.

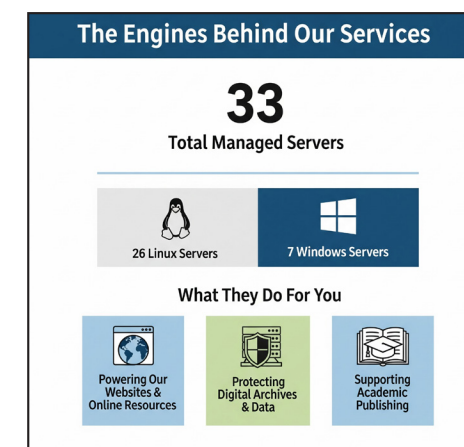


Carly Rivera, faculty liaison to the College of Nursing

LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY IN 2025

University Libraries is dedicated to providing cutting-edge resources for students, faculty, and the broader campus community. In 2025, our Area Computing Services and Web Technologies and Development units made significant advancements in our technology infrastructure to deliver innovative services and improve user experiences. A major achievement was completing the integration between Aeon and Ciasoft in February, which streamlined fulfillment workflows for Special Collections and the Archival Facility, as well as technology transfer initiatives. Another key project nearing completion is the FOLIO (Future of Libraries is Open) Financial View, which provides a user-friendly interface for managing library accounts. This tool will enable staff to easily view, browse, and allocate funds, ensuring transparent and effective budget management. We are working as a development partner with Birmingham-based industry leader EBSCO Industries to facilitate a sustainable, community driven collaboration around the creation of a modern technology ecosystem that empowers libraries through open-source applications to manage library resources and expand library value. Recently, the team expanded by hiring two new student developers.

We also implemented significant upgrades across our facilities and systems to strengthen research capabilities, accessibility, and security. We deployed four high performance AI workstations at Rodgers Library, and upgraded our DSpace institutional repository to enhance scholarly sharing and collaboration. Additionally, we partnered with Access Services, Special Collections, and the Office of Information Technology to implement CyberArk, a secure, automated system for managing Windows access for public visitors.



DIGITAL HUMANITIES @ UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

For over a decade, University Libraries has supported Digital Humanities Scholarship through the Alabama Digital Humanities Center (ADHC) in Gorgas Library. The ADHC provides technology access and training for digital humanities scholars. In 2025 the ADHC hosted 24 workshops on various digital project tools: Omeka S, WordPress, Cloud-based Open Access Tools, Introduction to Voyant for Text Analysis, Introduction to TimelineJS, StorymapsJS, and SceneVR for temporal, spatial, and immersive digital storytelling.

In 2025, one of our hosted projects, Notre Dame in Color, made a critical discovery connecting sculptural fragments at Naser Museum with the sculptures at Notre Dame

Cathedral, and was featured in a documentary from PBS NOVA! Dr. Jennifer Feltman, associate professor of medieval art and architecture, is the 2025 recipient of the Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor Award. We are proud to host her important work in perpetuity.



Other notable collaborations this year include the Alabama Blues History Database, and the Vietnam War Oral History project which engages undergraduate students in collecting and preserving oral histories of veterans of the Vietnam War through digital archiving.



For podcasts, events, and to learn more about the ADHC and the important projects we support, scan the QR code or visit <https://adhc.lib.ua.edu/>.



Scan here to learn more about *Notre Dame in Color*, or visit https://adhc1.ua.edu/notre_dame_in_color/

RESOURCE ACQUISITION & DISCOVERY IN 2025

This year, the work of Resource Acquisition and Discovery (RAD) has expanded University Libraries collections by negotiating new resource acquisitions, implementing new initiatives to enhance discovery of resources, and unveiling new discovery platforms for students and faculty. In May of 2025, University Libraries facilitated major updates to the EBSCO Discovery Service search interface (we call it Scout!), bringing an all-new look to the platform, and new features, including bulk exporting of search results, integrated live chat service, and other personalization features.

University Libraries also upgraded our access in the social sciences by subscribing to EBSCO's *Sociology Source Ultimate*, adding 2,700 new full-text serial titles. Also new to our digital collections are twenty primary source collections from Adam Matthew Digital (AM). These collections contain over 43,000 titles and include the Royal Shakespeare Company Archives, the Global History of Epidemics collection, 1980's Culture and Society collection, and others. University Libraries also added the all-new AM Search Platform which allows users to search across all AM collections and limit for specific collections, time periods, and geographic regions.

RAD is excited to announce that current students, faculty, and staff now have online access to The Wall Street Journal at WSJ.com, made possible through a collaborative initiative between University Libraries and the University of Alabama Student Government Association (SGA). Special thanks to our campus partners who helped make WSJ.com available: the Culverhouse College of Business, the Barefield College of Arts & Sciences, the Career Center, a Division of Student Life, the Honors College, the College of Communication & Information Sciences, the Office of Teaching Innovation and Digital Education (OTIDE), and the College of Education. Access to WSJ.com provides our campus with real-time financial and business intelligence, as well as award-winning journalism on national and international affairs.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

AM Primary sources reimagined

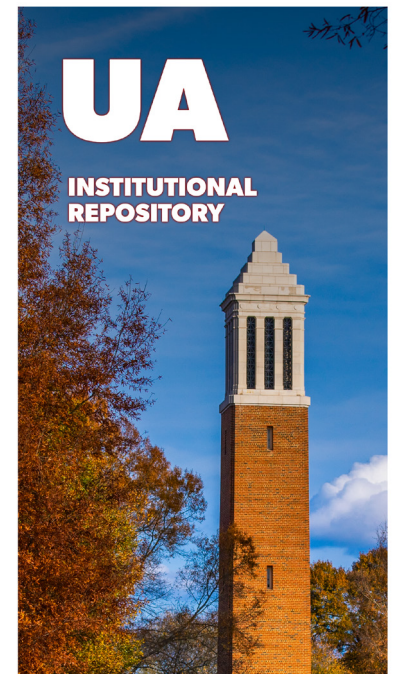
In 2025, University Libraries also began 1-year pilot of three new Artificial Intelligence (AI) based resources, including SciteAI, ScopusAI, and Web of Science AI Research Assistant. These value-added enhancements to existing tools allow users to search for articles with natural language and

scite_

provide authoritative summaries that guide students in their research. Other notable additions to the library digital collections this year include digital access to Sports Business Journal as well as PR Week. University Libraries also added over 20,000 new eBook titles from Duke University Press, Casalini, Elsevier Science Direct, IET, and IEEE.

Another notable new initiative this year is the archiving of student publications by our Institutional Repository (IR) faculty and staff. We now make the *Alice New College Review*, *the Journal of Science and Health at The University of Alabama* (JOHSUA), the *Capstone Journal of Law and Public Policy*, and the *Crimson Historical Review* available digitally on demand to scholars worldwide. In 2025 the IR also added 2,375 unique items and had over 149,878 visitors, who initiated 150,614 downloads, bringing the total visits since its inception in 2017 to 5,212,546.

2025 also marked the launch of the Open Journal Services (OJS) platform, which is a digital space provided by University Libraries for hosting new faculty and student publications. We successfully launched two journals on the OJS platform: *SPACE* and the *General Linear Model Journal*, with a third journal anticipated to be added by the end of the Fall 2025 semester. These exciting new digital journals are available through the main University Libraries website and represent yet another vehicle of our support for student and faculty research and intellectual endeavors.



Royal Shakespeare Company Archives: From Playwrights to Performance

Insights into the RSC's most innovative and pioneering productions.

AM Primary sources reimagined

"University Libraries continues to support the research enterprise at UA by leveraging digital and print resources, as we continue to prioritize primary resource collections," noted Lindsey Lowry, Head of Electronic Resources and Scholarly Communications. This year we added materials on the history of slavery and emancipation in Brazil, personal Civil War correspondence, and the social and economic dynamics of the American South during Reconstruction. RAD processed over 45,000 print volumes, while Special Collections processed over 450 linear feet of newly acquired archival materials.

In 2025 the Institutional Repository had over 149,878 visitors, who initiated 150,614 downloads, bringing the total visits since its inception in 2017 to 5,212,546

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS 2025



SPRING ~ In the spring, the Leadership Board met on May 23rd in the Camellia Room of Gorgas Library. Special guests included several members of the leadership of the Student Government Association. Dean Gilstrap welcomed and introduced our special guest speaker, JD Wilson, Director of the University of Alabama Press on behalf of Dr. James Seay Brown Jr., author of the 2024 holiday gift book: *Distracted by Alabama: Tangled Threads of Natural History, Local History, and Folklore*. Wilson served as sales and marketing director at Northwestern University Press prior to being named director at the University of Alabama Press in January 2023. The position with UA Press is a homecoming for Wilson, who, before he moved to Chicago to work for Northwestern, served as UA Press's sales and marketing director.

Mr. Julian Butler, Chair, opened by welcoming committee members to the meeting and facilitating the approval of the minutes. Rick Paler, who chaired the Strategies Committee for over a decade, thanked Dean Gilstrap and Leadership Board members for their support as he was stepping down from this role following the 2025 election of officers.

Michael Pearce, Director of Strategic Engagement for University Libraries and chair of the Membership and Nominating Committee announced our newest member, Dr. Matthew Carnes, MD, a Gastroenterologist located in Fairhope, AL who plans to join us for the fall 2025 meeting. He gave an update on the University Libraries Bama Blitz fundraising from 60 donors and thanked the membership for their continued support. He specifically thanked the Leadership Board for helping to create the Calvin Brown Student Support Fund which funds student networking and professional development events in our event spaces. He also thanked the Board for supporting the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame event on March 7th, 2025.

Dean Gilstrap began his remarks by noting that our Capital Campaign goal had been doubled and that we had met our goal yet again. He thanked the Board and asserted that we achieved our Capital Campaign goals with 2,255 donors and 5,663 total gifts. He gave an update on Phase III improvements to Gorgas Library, with demolition set to begin in June of 2025 on floors 5,6, and 7. He discussed the wonderful Alabama Writers Hall of Fame dinner and ceremony and encouraged members to take advantage of attending the next event.

Mr. Butler concluded the meeting with officer elections for the 2025-2027 term. A motion was made, then seconded and approved, to elect the slate of candidates presented. As such, our new Chair is Wray Pearce, with our Chair Elect being Dr. Rachel Fowler. William Walker will chair Strategies, with Michael Pearce chairing the Membership & Nominating Committee. Mary Alton Griffin will chair the Program Committee while Bob Henderson is our new Member-at-Large. With no further business, Mr. Butler declared the meeting adjourned.

FALL ~ In the fall, Leadership Board members met on October 24th for a luncheon and business meeting in the Camellia Room of Gorgas Library. Before the luncheon began, Ms. Mary Alton Griffin, Chair of the Program Committee congratulated the winners of the University Libraries Leadership Board Student, Staff, and Faculty Awards: Faculty Award Winner, Jessica Robertson, Head of Special Collections, Hoole Special Collections; Staff Award Winner, Deletha Edwards, Library Technician, Resource Acquisition & Discovery; and Student Award Winner, Maggie Stevens, Library Student Assistant, Resource Acquisition & Discovery. The awards celebrate excellence in job performance, and generously include a cash prize



from the Leadership Board fund. The winners were all in attendance and each received a framed certificate honoring them for their service and commitment to University Libraries. Special guests for the luncheon included Mrs. Lindsay Rice, a new member of the Board, UA class of '99, and her mother, as well as Samantha Simmons, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Rylen Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer representing the Student Government Association.

After the luncheon, Dean Gilstrap introduced our special guest speaker, Dr. Michael P. Fedoroff. Dr. Fedoroff serves as the Executive Director for the Community-Oriented Nature-based Science, Ecosystem Restoration, and Versatile Engineering program (CONSERVE) at the Alabama Water Institute (AWI). In his current role as CONSERVE research Director, he leads interdisciplinary teams to help solve water challenges that impact people and the environment. His presentation explored various projects of the AWI, as well as the important work conducted by the USGS Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility on The University of Alabama campus.

Mr. Wray Pearce, Chair opened the business meeting with welcoming remarks and a review of the spring 2025 meeting minutes, which were approved. Chair of Strategies, Mr. William Walker thanked previous chair Mr. Rick Paler for his dedicated service and stressed the need to cultivate new members as the capital campaign is winding down in 2026. Mr. Michael Pearce, Chair of Membership, reiterated the need to invite new members, and later discussed the fall annual giving fundraisers and plans for the spring of 2026. Thanks to the support of our Board, University Libraries was at the top of the University's ambassador leaderboard for the Clash of the Capstone fundraiser in October!

Dean Gilstrap gave an update on various University Libraries projects and the Rising Tide Capital Campaign, and he highlighted our continued success as the University enters the final stages of the campaign. He thanked Neely Portera who has now moved full time to the Honors College as a development officer, and he introduced Dr. Jenny Pyle, Executive Director of Colleges and Schools who is representing University Libraries for the Division of

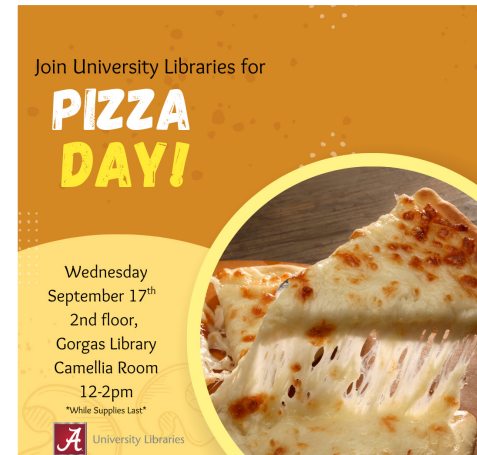
Advancement during the final year of the campaign. At the time of the fall meeting, University Libraries had raised 206% of our original goal. He thanked the Board for their generosity and leadership in this achievement. Dean Gilstrap then previewed the upcoming construction for 2026 in Gorgas which will make possible a dedicated



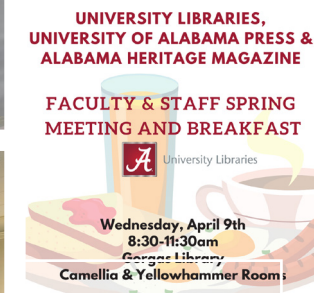
faculty and graduate student commons, and an expansion of quiet study spaces, as well as the anticipated start date for the Henry Dean Wray Digital Scholarship Zone on the first floor in early 2027. At the conclusion of the Dean's remarks, Mr. Wray Pearce declared the meeting adjourned.

OUTREACH AND EVENTS

The primary purpose of University Libraries facilities is to support educational and research opportunities for University of Alabama students and faculty, and our event spaces provide a forum for dialogue and collaboration in the geographic and intellectual heart of campus. During 2025, even with our spaces closed from January through March due to Gorgas Library renovations, University Libraries hosted over 500 events for student organizations, colleges, and departments, including the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony in the Bryant Conference Center, and the SGA Student Art Exhibition in the Music and Fine Arts Library on the first floor of Gorgas. From WellBama health screenings, to career fairs, luncheons, movie nights, book talks, conferences, meetings, and retreats we take pride in creating added value for campus stakeholders by providing space on campus to network, share ideas, and promote intellectual discourse. Did we mention the 8 celebratory food days that we also provided for students, with support from the Calvin Brown University Libraries Student Support Fund? We will see you for pizza day in 2026!



University Libraries welcomed new UA President, Dr. Peter J. Mohler, in September 2025.



UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES WAS PROUD TO HOST OUR CAMPUS PARTNERS FOR OVER 500 MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, LUNCHEONS, BOOK TALKS, MOVIE NIGHTS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2025!

NEW FACULTY



Dr. Rachel DuBose
Data Science Librarian



Nelia Koontz
Collections Strategist

NEW STAFF AND RETIREES



Will Adams
Director of University
Libraries Administrative
Services



Jennifer Barger
Library Technician



Alisa Boyd
Administrative
Assistant II



Dakeya Chambers
Research Computing
Library Specialist



Anne Druhl
Events Planner



Terrell Harris
Production Designer,
UA Press



Sarah Hollingsworth
Library Public Service
Assistant



Natalie Klein
Library Public Service
Assistant



Rebecca Petty
Library Public Service
Assistant

Not pictured above, Elizabeth Bezak, Marketing Associate, UA Press.

PROMOTIONS

It is always rewarding from an organizational standpoint to see talented employees advance in their career growth. Congratulations to University Libraries faculty and staff who continue their journey with us in new roles in 2025.



Kimberly Duncan
Library Public Service
Assistant



Kristen Hop
Publication Acquisitions
Editor II, UA Press



Lindsey Lowry
Head of Electronic
Resources and Scholarly
Communications



Dr. Vin Scalfani
Director of Research
Computing Services



Sandy Turner
Production and Design
Manager, UA Press



Emily Wilburn
Electronic Resources
Librarian



Melissa Young
Archival Metadata
Librarian

Congratulations Retirees



Kara Gibson
Director of Library
Administrative Services



Shelly Milner
Library Technician



Dan Waterman
Editor in Chief, UA Press

Not pictured above, Cathy Craig, Library Public Services Assistant.

LEADERSHIP BOARD AWARDS

FACULTY AWARD

JESSICA ROBERTSON
Head of Hoole Special Collections



— In the nomination packet for Jessica a colleague writes:
“Jessica has exceeded expectations in her role as Head of Special Collections. Her innovative suggestions, effective workflow adjustments, and significant contributions in digitization and grant project management have expanded the availability and discovery of rare and unique Special Collections materials. I am confident that her achievements and professional demeanor make her a deserving candidate for the 2025 Library Leadership Board Faculty Award. During the years I have worked at the University of Alabama Libraries I have worked with many supervisors and I will group Jessica with the very best of them. She is a deft administrator capable of successfully navigating departmental logistics, University Library strategic priorities, and the varied relationships between coworkers and patrons alike.”

STAFF AWARD

DEE EDWARDS
Library Technician, Resource Acquisition & Discovery



— In the nomination packet for Dee a supervisor writes:
“Dee is a valuable member of the Resource Acquisition and Discovery (RAD) unit of University Libraries. She is organized and detail oriented and is also an excellent supervisor to our student workers. Dee is a thoughtful and beloved coworker to the colleagues she sees each day. She is highly flexible and adaptable to uncertain circumstances that may arise but always performs her work with a positive attitude. She is very thorough and learns new processes quickly and easily. She is always open to change and improving efficiency in the work of the Acquisitions unit. Dee sets a great example for her fellow staff members.”

STUDENT AWARD

MAGGIE STEVENS
Student Assistant, Resource Acquisition & Discovery



— In the nomination packet for Maggie a supervisor writes:
“Maggie has worked in Resource Acquisition & Discovery as a student assistant since Augst 2013 and in that time she has become one of our most reliable and trusted student workers. Ms. Stevens is an incredibly hard worker and consistently outperforms the goals set by her supervisor. She has been cross-trained to work with staff throughout the department on various projects and is frequently requested by name to assist with complex tasks requiring precision and focus. Maggie is an outstanding student library assistant. I have worked with students at UA for over 23 years - Maggie is a shining star and stands out as the epitome of what a library student assistant should be.”

GRANTS, AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

GRANTS

Colonna-Romano, Jeremiah (PI). From Categories to Concepts: Identifying Ambiguity Thresholds for Unintuitively Concept Adjacent Arrangement of Primary Source Language in Vector Embedding Spaces (2025). Funded by the UA Office for Research and Economic Development FUSE Award program. Amount: \$19,9233

Gilstrap, Donald L. (PI), Robertson, Jessica (co-PI), & Arthur, Michael A. (co-PI). Richard Shelby Papers U.S. Senate Preservation Partnership Grant, 2022-2027. Amount: \$2,500,000.

Robertson, Jessica (PI), Arthur, Michael A. (co-PI). Digitizing the Records of Alabama’s Coal and Iron Labor History. Funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Amount: \$147,743. NHPRC Award #: RH-104728-24.

Robertson, Jessica (PI), Gilstrap, Donald L. (co-PI), Ferrara, David (co-PI), & Arthur, Michael A. (co-PI). National Digital Newspaper Program for the Alabama Digital Newspaper Project (2024-2026). Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Amount: \$324,887. NEH Award #: PJ-300607-24.

Honors, Appointments, and Awards

Arthur, Michael A. Appointed Co-Chair, ASERL Associate Dean/AUL Networking Group.

Arthur, Michael A. Southeastern Conference (SEC) Faculty Travel Program Award, 2025-2026.

Whitver, Sara M. Appointed Assistant Editor, Reference Services Review (Emerald Publishing).

Presentations

Clark, Brian P. (2025, July). Automating generation and delivery of ILS reports with Python, SQLAlchemy, and Linux crontab. Presented at the *Code4Lib SE* conference, Atlanta, GA.

Gilstrap, Donald L. (January 2025). Having a Seat at the Table: Representation and Participation in the Library Master Planning Process. Panel Presentation. *Library Facilities Master Planning Series. American Library Association CORE Webinar.*

Herzberg, Melissa (2025, February). Increasing Student Engagement with Interactive Teaching Tools. Solo presentation at the *Online Learning Innovation Summit*, Tuscaloosa, AL.

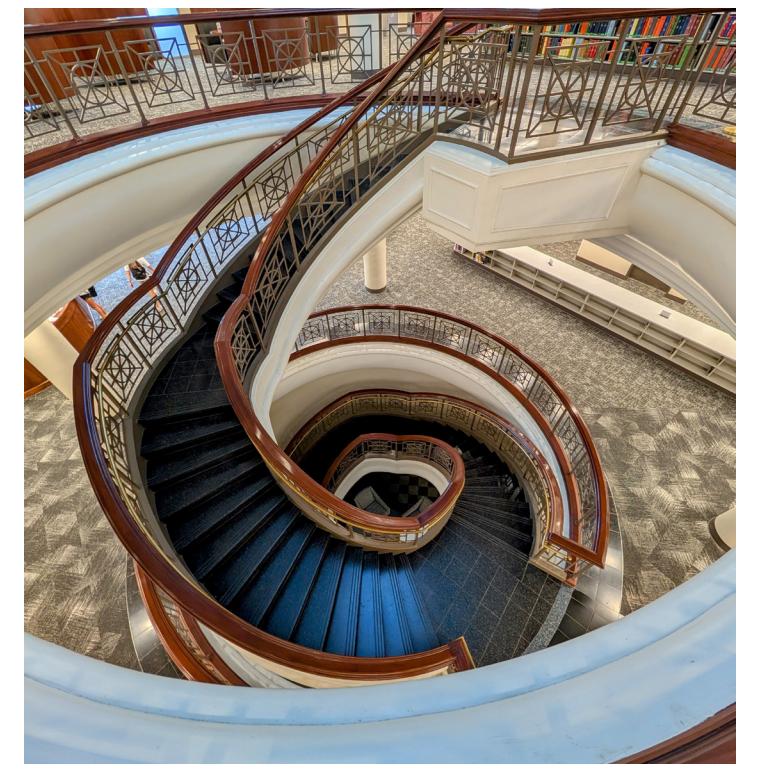
Herzberg, Melissa & Passick, Gabrielle V. (2025, May). From Passive to Active: Leveraging Interactive Technology Tools to Increase Student Engagement. *LOEX 2025*, Pasadena, CA.

Hootman, J.L., **Whitver, Sara M.**, Dosch, B., Siniscalachi, C. M. (2025, June). “The Role of Community: Advancing Digital Scholarship & Data Practices Through Peer Learning.” Panel presented at *The Best Practices Exchange*, Columbia, SC.

Smith, Catherine, Lowry, Lindsey, Daugherty, Alice L. (December 2024). Technical Services Workforce Preparedness: A Survey of Librarians’ Perceptions on LIS Curricula and Skills Acquisition. Virtual Presentation given at *The Charleston Conference*, Charleston, South Carolina.

Smith, Taylor S. (2025, March). Out of control: An assessment of the effects of subject headings on the discovery of electronic theses and dissertations. Presented at *Electronic Resources & Libraries 2025*, Austin, TX.

Smith, Taylor S. (2025, April). Strategies for Ensuring Access to Electronic Resources from HLM MARC Records. Presented at *EBSCO User Group 2025*, Providence, RI.



Walker, Elaine & Lowry, Lindsey (March 2025). Advantageous Uses of Faculty Publication Data: Collection Assessment, Faculty Research Support, Promotion of the IR, and More. Presentation given at *Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference*, Austin, TX.

Young, Melissa. (May 2025). Community-Building and New South Networking in Birmingham, Alabama, 1871-1911. Virtual Presentation given at the *Jewish Folklife in Alabama meeting of the Alabama Folklife Association*.

Publications

Evans, Sarah. A., **Simpson, Lance. M.**, Molina, Lacy N., & Stanley, Chirsty (2025). Concentric Learning Communities: Educating Rural Library Staff in Principles of Collaborative Family Learning. *Library Trends*, 72(4), 625–642. <https://doi.org/10.1353/lib.2024.a949574>

Clark, Brian P. (2025). Streamlining electronic theses and dissertations processing procedures at The University of Alabama Libraries. *Technical Services Quarterly*, 42(2), 169-186. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07317131.2025.2467571>

Herzberg, Melissa (2025). Flexible by design: A framework-based approach to redesigning library tutorials for equity and engagement. *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, 1–50. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10875301.2025.2538229>

Riesen, Karleigh. (2025). Research support for early career librarians: Creating opportunity for scholarship. *The Reference Librarian*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02763877.2025.2554873>

Riesen, Karleigh. (2025). Incorporating signature pedagogies into library instruction through reflective pedagogy. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 25(1), 137-150. <https://doi.org/10.1353/pla.2025.a950012>



Simpson, Lance. M., Mansfield, Gabriel. L., & Bates, Margaret (2025). Updating for sustainability and value: Rebuilding asynchronous information literacy learning modules for STEM undergraduates in an MBA program. *Journal of Business & Finance Librarianship*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08963568.2025.2546208>

Simpson, Lance. M., VanDyke, Matthew, & Koh, Amanda. S. (2025). Addressing the Importance of STEM to Public Science Communication in Engineering Formation: An Analysis of An Educational Innovation for an Upper-Level Chemical Engineering Health and Safety Course. *Chemical Engineering Education*, 59(1), 34–49. <https://doi.org/10.18260/2-1-370.660-135642>

Smith, Taylor S. (2024). Guidelines for efficiency when batch processing HLM MARC records at a Large Academic Library. *Technical Services Quarterly*, 42(1), 27–45.

Smith, Taylor S. (2025). Fantastic Discovery: Guidelines for Cataloging Fictional Maps. *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries*, 21(1–2), 57–75.

Walker, Kevin W., Gilstrap, Donald L., Scaffani, Vincent F., & Walker, Elaine (2025). Comparing impact of green open access and toll-access publication in the chemical sciences. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 51(1). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2024.102984>

Walker, Elaine & Lowry, Lindsey (2025). Open Access Publication Trends at an R1 University: Using Data-Driven Strategies for Institutional Repository Promotion and Outreach. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.31274/jlsc.18390>

MISSION VISION VALUES

Our... Mission

The University of Alabama Libraries are essential in advancing the educational mission of the University. We provide innovative instruction, services, and resources to facilitate teaching, research, and learning. The University of Alabama Libraries are committed to be student-centered and research-focused in order to support discovery, learning, and creativity at the Capstone.

Vision

We envision a future in which faculty and students have in-depth awareness of the resources available, skills to evaluate them, and a desire to pursue life-long learning.

Values

- Providing excellent services and learning experiences for all members of the University community while promoting collaboration.
- Openness to diverse voices and perspectives for exchanging information and ideas.
- Access to comprehensive scholarly information resources that support campus curricula and contribute to the impact of the research life cycle.
- Assessment and continuous improvement of our practices with a culture of accountability.
- Training and technology that support innovation and entrepreneurship.

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UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
LEADERSHIP BOARD FOR
THEIR SUPPORT, AND
TO OUR FIRST TIME
DONORS!**



BAMA BLITZ 2025 Funds raised by University Libraries during Bama Blitz were used to help create the Calvin Brown Student Support Fund, which provides students with a series of networking events in the Camellia and Yellowhammer rooms in Gorgas Library.



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