

# IMPACT REPORT 2024



**University Libraries**  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



**University Libraries Leadership**

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**2024 Impact Report**

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# From the Dean

Dear friends,

I am delighted to share this year's annual report from University Libraries, spotlighting a selection of our many activities over the past 12 months in support of the University's research, teaching, and learning missions.

We have, as always, been busy with classes, exhibits, events, scholarly activities and space updates. This year's report puts a special emphasis on outreach: how our library faculty and staff, often in collaboration with other partners, are engaging with students, faculty, and the public. While we continue to select and steward materials, physical and electronic, we also expend considerable effort educating our stakeholders about our growing array of services that build on those collections and otherwise engaging them in both time-honored and novel ways.

As part of a reorganization of the Libraries, we have created a separate Outreach and Information Services Team, headed by Evette Bridges. An interview with Evette, featured here, helps illustrate some of the engagement activities she and her team have been working on as the group takes shape. Of course, exhibits and events have always played a big part in our outreach. Our Fall Literary Festival celebrated its 25th anniversary this year, and in recognition of that milestone, we had large turnouts for our three visiting authors, Jesmyn Ward, Cinelle Barnes, and Walter Mosley. The South Caroliniana Library marked its first academic year since renovation with dozens of classes, visiting speakers, and exhibits, including several with partners in the history department, the Center for Civil Rights History and Research, and the Humanities Collaborative, among others.

We also highlight two of our recent hires, Vandana Srivastava, our Artificial Intelligence Specialist, and Evan Faulkenbury, University Historian. Both new colleagues have new or unique roles, including outreach, which I encourage you to explore via our profiles of them here, as well as other stories about our triennial student survey, conducted in spring 2024, our work on research data curation, and much more.

Our faculty and staff do outstanding work every day to advance the University of South Carolina's mission. But they do not work alone. Without the generosity of alumni, parents, and friends to provide the scholarly support services critical to the success of our students and faculty, we could not accomplish many of the activities and initiatives described here. Your help makes the difference!

With best regards,



David Banush  
Dean of Libraries





Students enjoy a sweet treat and library tour at our annual Pelicans on the Patio event.

# “The more we get the word out, the more people come in”: Outreach is vital to promoting library services

Students at the University of South Carolina know that University Libraries can support and enrich their academic experience, but they often don't know exactly how, and especially post-Covid, they may not be comfortable approaching librarians and asking for help.

That's the core issue the Libraries' outreach initiatives address. “Our goal,” says Head of Outreach and Information Services Evette Bridges, “is to make sure students know we are more than just a place to study and the place with the books.”

Outreach activities run the gamut from tabling at new student orientation and at student events like Hip Hop Wednesdays and Pridechella to hosting Pelicans on the Patio, an annual opportunity for students to earn a free sno-cone after taking a quick library tour, and bringing therapy dogs to Thomas Cooper at stressful times of the semester.



Gamecock families get to see the library for themselves during Family Weekend.

Even the Libraries' social media feeds do important outreach work, mixing entertaining content with information about library services and resources. And the entrance to Thomas Cooper has recently been reconfigured to put the Information Services team front and center so it's more obvious that they're available to answer whatever questions library users might have.

The Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections and the South Caroliniana Library also place a priority on outreach, to both the university and local communities, through events, instructional sessions, and more.

**“There’s a wealth of knowledge here,” says Bridges. “Our librarians are an amazing resource. The more we can get the word out about that, the more people come in.”**



Family Weekend Fall 2024



Students take a break from studying for finals with a snack from our Treat Trolley.



Pelicans on the Patio Fall 2024



Director of Rare Books and Special Collections Michael Weisenburg introduces Spring Hill High School students to the Libraries special collections holdings



Librarians Timothy Simmons and Evette Bridges welcome students into Thomas Cooper Library during Pelicans on the Patio



Treat Trolley 2024



An undergraduate class gets hands on experience with Medieval Manuscripts in Hollings Rare Books and Special Collections



Students help preserve comic book history during our Bag and Board event every semester



The Libraries welcomes students during new student orientation



Students from the Carolina Experience organization greet library visitors at Pelicans on the Patio



Bag and Board 2024



Pelicans on the Patio 2024

# Building connections, making a difference:

## A CONVERSATION WITH HEAD OF OUTREACH EVETTE BRIDGES



Outreach has always been central to the work University Libraries Head of Outreach and Information Services Evette Bridges has done. Before joining the Thomas Cooper Library staff as Head of Circulation in 2022, she worked at several public libraries in Georgia, supporting the blind and physically handicapped, running bookmobiles and serving as a branch manager.

Since taking on her current role in the summer of 2024, Bridges has coordinated dozens of outreach events and overseen the development of the information services team whose members provide frontline support to library users. We asked her to describe the role she sees for outreach at University Libraries and what she loves about her job.

### **WHAT LED YOU TO TAKE ON THIS NEW ROLE WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON OUTREACH?**

In my time at University Libraries, I've progressively found myself wanting to do more with outreach, and specifically with getting the word out about the libraries to students. To do that, it's clear that we need to have a presence at as many events and activities as possible. So I'm very motivated to expand the scope of our outreach efforts.

### **HOW HAS THE LIBRARIES STAFF SUPPORTED OUTREACH EFFORTS TO DATE?**

That's one of the most encouraging things about my experience in this role so far: the team, however busy, will always show up. People have consistently been willing to volunteer and to come up with new ideas.

### **WHAT INSPIRES YOU ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

Making a difference. I don't care how big or small it is – I just want to make a difference in somebody's day.

I have always loved being a librarian because I learn something new every day. It could be about what students like, or about the university, or about my staff, but I love learning new things, and I am never bored.

### **WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR THE EVOLUTION OF OUTREACH AT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES?**

In addition to being as visible as we can be at events and activities around campus and to having a strong welcoming presence at the front of Thomas Cooper, I would love to offer more visible support to students throughout the building, by, for example, having a designated person available on every floor to answer questions and help.

Ultimately, I want students, when they think of the library, to think, *this is our place.*

# Fall Literary Festival celebrates 25 years

Jesmyn Ward, Cinelle Barnes and Walter Mosley were the visiting authors for the 2024 Fall Literary Festival, which featured craft talks for USC creative writing students followed by reading and discussion of each author's work with a general audience.

The impact of family members in shaping our lives and perspectives was a recurring theme among this year's visiting writers. Ward, a two-time National Book Award winner and author of the acclaimed novels *Salvage the Bones*, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, and *Let Us Descend*,

read from an essay about how she draws inspiration from her grandmother's perseverance in the face of adversity. Mosley, one of the most decorated mystery writers of his generation, recounted his path to becoming a writer, which was significantly impacted by his father. Barnes, a Charleston-based memoirist originally from the Philippines, read about her experience watching volleyball with her daughter. After reading, all three writers fielded questions from the audience and signed books, which were available to purchase through All Good Books.



Jesmyn Ward reads to a sold-out crowd on the first night of the 25th annual Fall Literary Festival.



Marking its 25th anniversary this year, the festival brings unique and inspiring literary voices to campus. It has been supported throughout by the generous legacy of Libraries friend Dorothy D. Smith and administered in partnership between University Libraries and the USC Department of English. The festival has brought 80 authors of regional, national and international repute to campus, including Jamaica Kincaid, Percival Everett, Sue Monk Kidd, Michael Ondaatje, David Baldacci, Colson Whitehead and Nikki Finney.

“Not only was this the 25th Anniversary year of the series, but it was the first year we partnered with community organizations, namely the South Carolina Writers Association and the Richland Library’s Broader Bookshelf program, to expand our audience,” said Associate Dean of Special Collections Elizabeth Sudduth, who spearheaded planning and coordination of the 2024 Fall Festival. “Over 400 people attended this year’s sessions. Mrs. Smith would be pleased that her idea of bringing campus and community readers together has flourished.”



Cinelle Barnes reads excerpts from her memoirs at All Good Books.



Jesmyn Ward signs books for festival attendees.



Walter Mosley signs copies of his bestselling works.

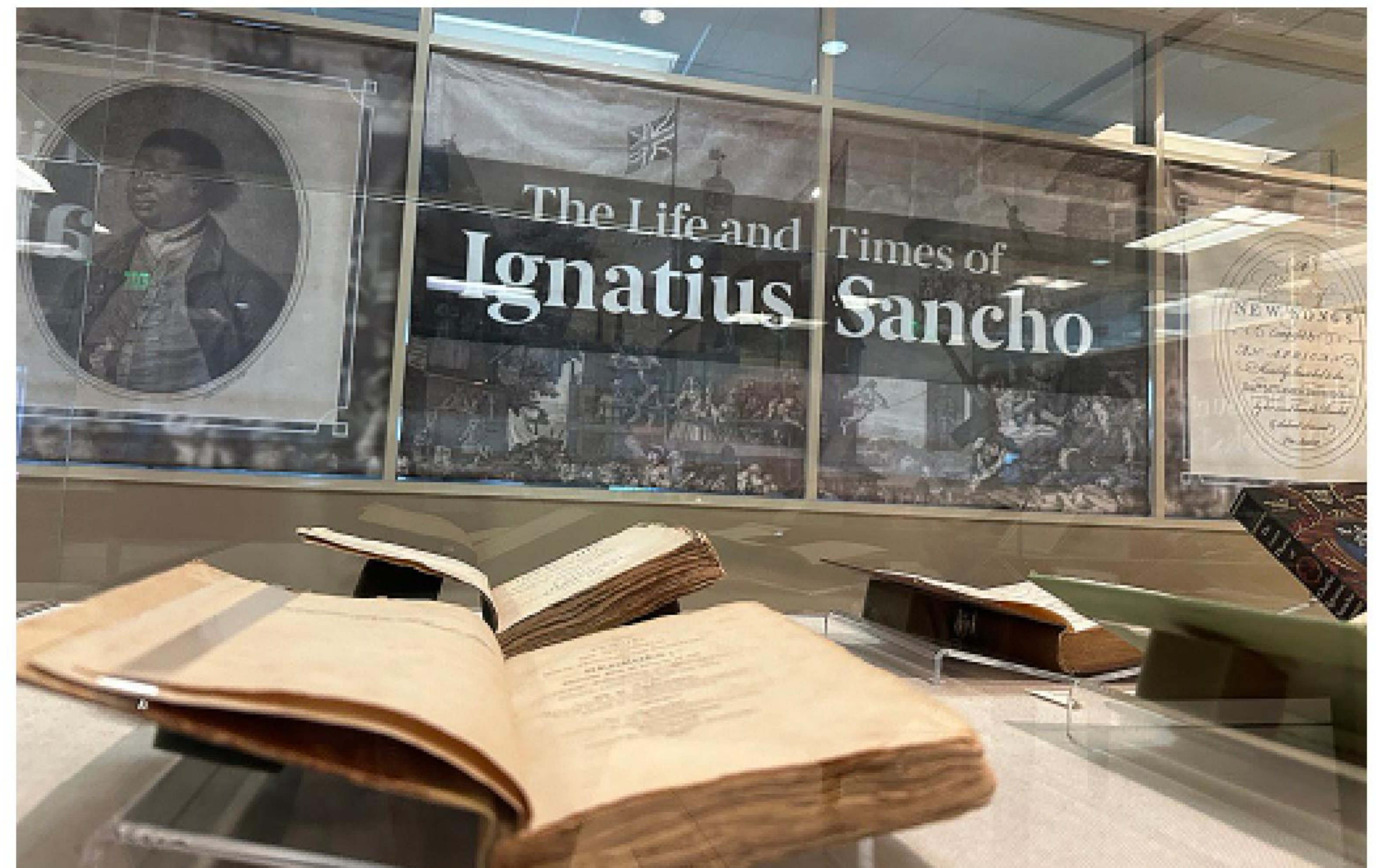
# 2024 Exhibits

From April through August, Hollings Library's Irvin Gallery hosted "Scott and Romantic Scotland," curated by Patrick Scott, Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the English department and former director of Rare Books at University Libraries. The exhibit showcased the Irvin Department's extensive holdings in 18th- and 19th-century Scottish literature.

The fall 2024 exhibit, "The Life and Times of Ignatius Sancho, the First Black British Voter," featured books, periodicals, artwork and artifacts related to a remarkable 18th-century figure who is largely unknown today: a writer, composer and public intellectual who began his life on a slave ship crossing the Atlantic. Curated by Irvin

Department Librarian Jeannie Britton, the exhibit explored the roles Sancho played in the literature, music and politics of his time.

Also in fall 2024, materials from the South Carolina Library related to the history of the civil rights movement in South Carolina were on display in Hollings in the Center for Civil Rights History and Research's exhibit, "Where Do We Go From Here?" Following up on the Center's "Justice For All" exhibit, also produced in partnership with University Libraries, the new exhibit examines the post-1960s era in South Carolina, considering how activists continued to push for justice and equality, often in the face of adversity, in areas ranging from education to housing to healthcare.



The Life and Times of Ignatius Sancho welcomes visitors with enticing graphics featuring artwork from Sancho's time.



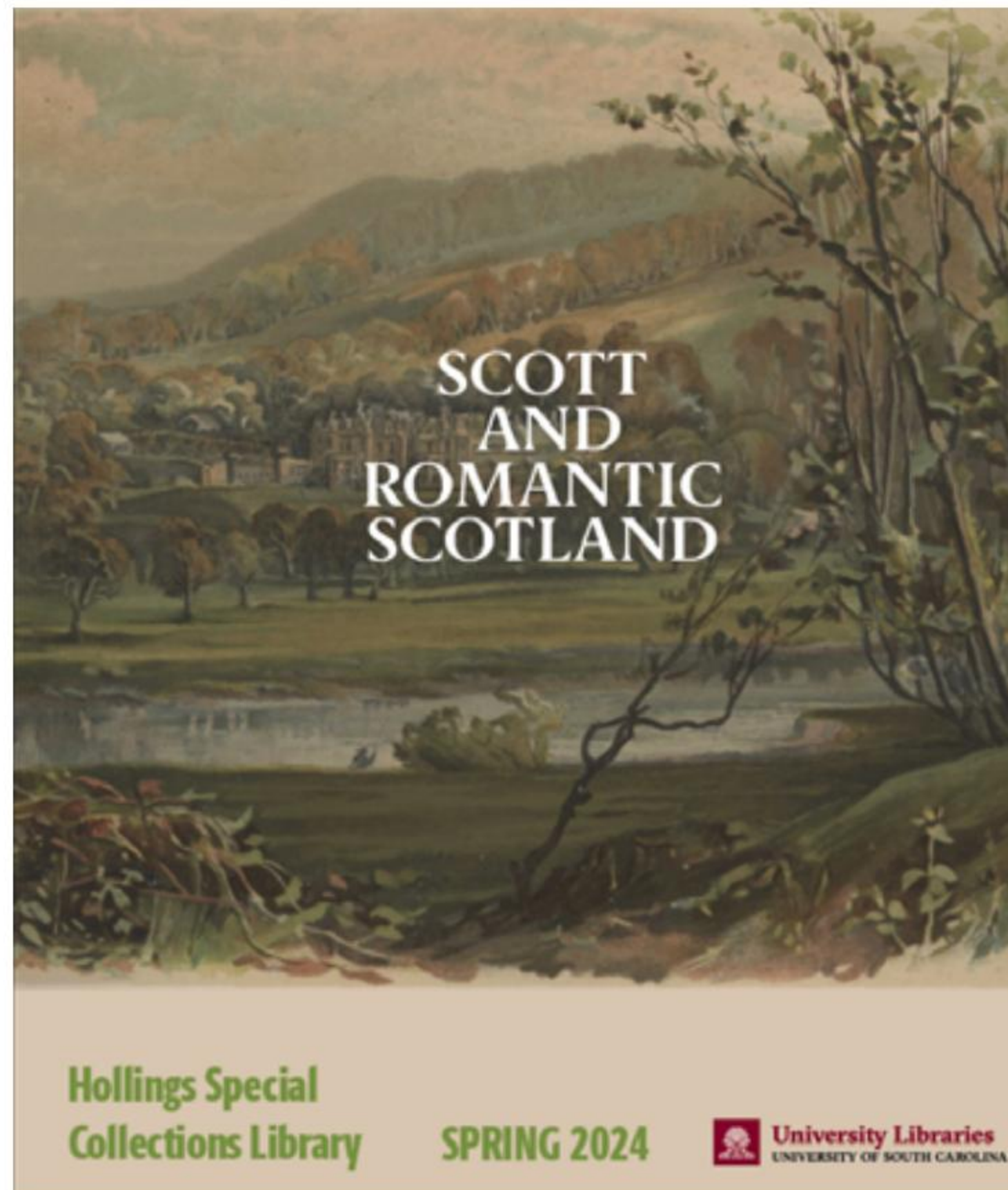
Dr. Robert Irvine, a Reader in Scottish Literature at Edinburgh University and recipient of the W. Ormiston Roy Memorial Fellowship, delivers the 2024 W. Ormiston Roy Lecture on Scottish poetry



Stephen Weiter, Interim Dean of Libraries, UNC-Charlotte, enjoys several of the displays featured in "Scott and Romantic Scotland"



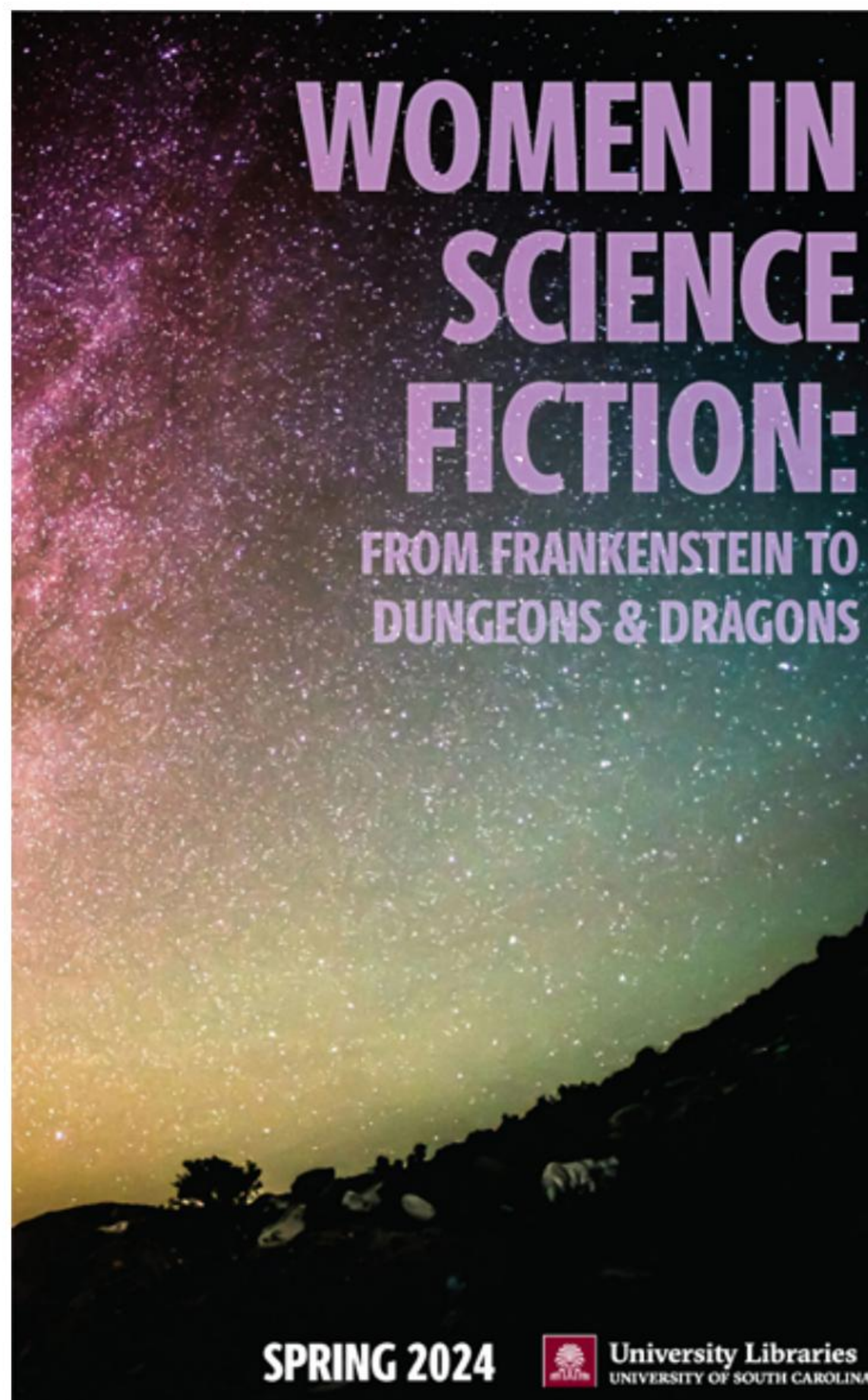
Doug Way (foreground), Dean of Libraries at the University of Kentucky, and Bob Fox (background), Dean at the University of Louisville, take in the Scott exhibit during the ASERL Meeting, May 2024.



## Mini exhibits

For African American History Month in February, the Irvin Department curated an exhibit in the front of Thomas Cooper Library featuring some of its most interesting and notable holdings in African American literature.

In March, for Women's History Month, the same space was home to an exhibit on women in science fiction that showcased the work of acclaimed writers like Mary Shelley, Octavia Butler and Margaret Atwood as well as women writers of pulp fiction and Dungeons and Dragons novels.



## Forthcoming exhibits

The Irvin Department's spring 2025 exhibit, "Something significant, elemental, and profound": Celebrating 100 Years of The Great Gatsby," opened on January 26 and will run through mid-July.

The Fall 2025 exhibit will also mark a centennial: "The bad guys are the fun guys": Crime Fiction, American Noir, and 100 Years of Elmore Leonard."

Both exhibits will be curated by Michael Weisenburg and both will draw on the Irvin Department's exceptional holdings.

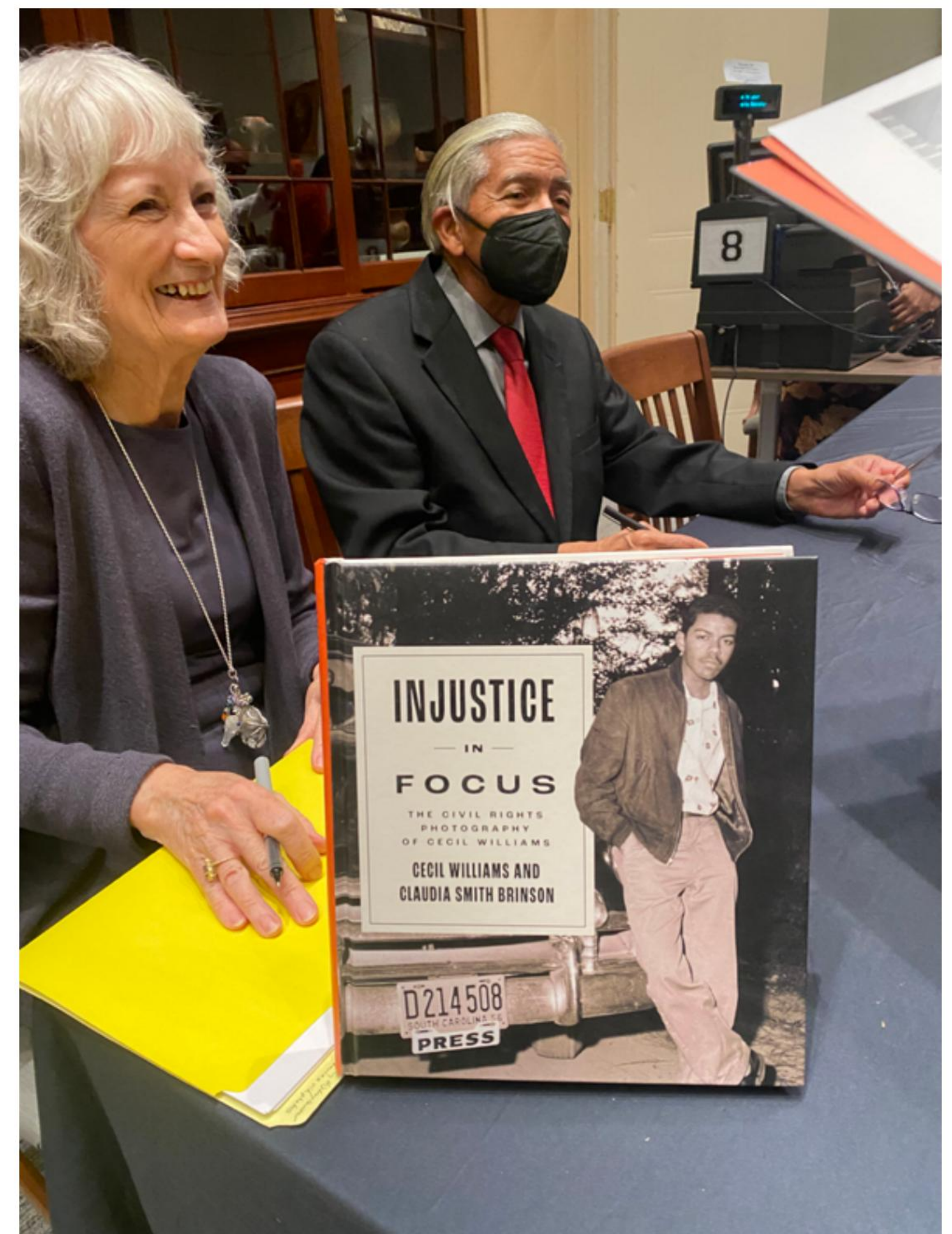
# Renovated facilities, new librarian expand South Caroliniana Library outreach

Reopening the South Caroliniana Library in October 2023 after its six-year renovation provided the perfect opportunity to reintroduce students and faculty to our collections and services. Researchers and students have been quick to embrace the new space. In the year since reopening, the Library scheduled 620 research appointments and handled 2,217 research requests. Others heard of the grand reopening in the news and came to see the renovated reading room and new exhibits. Whatever their reason for coming in, all visitors came away with a deep sense of the inestimable value of the research and education that the historic structure facilitates.

Book talks and exhibitions – from the moving “Injustice in Focus” lecture with civil rights activist Cecil Williams and journalist Claudia Smith-Brinson to the inspiring traveling exhibition on Black classicists of the late nineteenth century to a fiftieth anniversary celebration of historian Peter Wood’s groundbreaking book *Black Majority* – have drawn hundreds who desire a deeper knowledge of our state. For each of these events, we joined with campus partners in the History Center, the Humanities Collaborative, the Institute for Southern Studies, and the Center for Civil Rights History and Research to reach the largest possible audience. During the Fall semester we welcomed approximately 250 visitors at a single event as we joined with the Anne Frank Center to honor West Columbia artist and Anne Frank Award winner Mary Burkett.

University classes studying the history of South Carolina foodways, historical developments in public health, the Civil Rights Movement and the development of the School of Music have all visited the Library with their professors. High school students working on local history projects have learned how historians work with and craft stories of the past. Elementary and middle school students have searched through our new exhibits as they raced to complete the Library’s South Carolina History scavenger hunt. The South Caroliniana Library has also just welcomed its first Instruction and Outreach Librarian, who will work with faculty to bring the Library’s peerless collections to even more classes from across a wider range of disciplines. We will also expand our outreach to the state’s elementary, middle, and high school students.

The reimagined Kendall Room has proven the ideal space to host classes and events and a wonderful place to highlight the breadth and depth of our state’s always interesting past.



Civil Rights activist and photographer Cecil Williams and writer Claudia Smith Brinson sign copies of their book *Injustice in Focus*.



A team of students participate in University history themed trivia night



Director of the South Caroliniana Library Nathan Saunders welcomes students visiting from Watkins-Nance Elementary school



Undergraduate students look at archival Columbia City Directories

# Meet Brittany N. Champion, new Instruction and Outreach Librarian at the South Caroliniana Library



We are excited to welcome Brittany Champion to the South Caroliniana Library as Instruction and Outreach Librarian. Champion has worked in several libraries, most recently at Furman University in Greenville, SC, where she was in Instruction and Research Services. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC and a master's degree in Library Science from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC.

Of her new role, Champion says, "What excites me most about working at South Caroliniana is the chance to collaborate with a vast network of students, scholars and USC community advocates. I'm also excited about seizing the opportunity to learn about a multitude of topics and potentially broaden my own research interests."

Champion is eager to develop meaningful relationships with the community through community engagement and shared memories. She will focus on instruction relating to the Caroliniana's collections and will play an integral part in connecting between the Caroliniana and the campus community.

# Survey yields insights into how students use USC libraries

Students' needs are always evolving, making it essential that University Libraries also evolves accordingly. To gauge those shifts, we survey USC Columbia students every three years, asking about everything from their study space preferences to their comfort level with requesting a librarian's help.

More than 1200 students, both graduate and undergraduate, responded to our 2024 survey. They generally reported high satisfaction with library services and resources and tended to cite physical spaces as the area most in need of improvement.

One notable finding is the extent to which students who have had library instruction as part of their coursework report both more comfort and more success with using library resources. For example:

- While 42% of students who had received instruction reported at least sometimes asking questions of librarians, only 11% of those who had not received instruction did.
- 31% of those who have received instruction reported checking out and returning library materials at least sometimes, compared to 14% of those who had not received instruction.
- 82% of those who had received instruction said the library makes a significant or very significant contribution to their academic success, in contrast to 68% of those who had not.

Other notable findings:

- Undergraduates visit the libraries more often in person, while graduate students use the website more.
- "Study alone" is the activity both undergrads and grads do most frequently in Thomas Cooper Library.
- Among library services, students are most satisfied with research help from library staff and least satisfied with the study room booking system.
- Students cited electronic resources (e.g., article databases, online journals and magazines, ebooks) as most important relative to other library resources.

In response to the survey findings, the Libraries assessment team is exploring ways to provide students with more of the types and configurations of furniture they prefer and develop strategies to increase the number of students who receive instruction about library services.

"Objectively measuring the impact of instruction can be difficult," says Assessment Librarian Grace Jeon, "but the student survey does provide some quantitative data showing how effective library instruction is at encouraging USC students to use the library, one of many important resources on campus."



Students love the comfortable new furniture in Scholar's Corner.



Whiteboards are one of the most popular features in the Library.

# Understanding user needs, optimizing services: A CONVERSATION WITH ASSESSMENT LIBRARIAN GRACE JEON

Grace Jeon joined University Libraries as Assessment Librarian in the summer of 2023, after five years in the same role at Tulane University Libraries. She holds a Ph.D. in information science and has a particularly strong background in user experience research.

## HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR JOB IN A NUTSHELL?

I conduct various quantitative and qualitative studies related to the library services, spaces and resources to help libraries colleagues gain insights into the library's offerings and make informed decisions. Assessment is embedded in all librarians' work, but more recently libraries have created dedicated positions for it, with a goal of being as attentive as possible to the needs of library users.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR MOST RECENT PROJECTS?

In addition to last year's student survey, I created a report using page view data analysis to understand how people are using our website. And I'm always collecting and reporting on data about who's using our libraries and how they're using them.



Assessment Librarian  
Grace Jeon

## FROM YOUR VANTAGE POINT, WHAT'S MOST DISTINCTIVE OR NOTABLE ABOUT USC LIBRARIES?

At USC the library is really at the center of campus and, based on what students tell us, also very central to their academic experience. So I'm very glad the university is planning to enhance our spaces. Students want more comfortable seating and more individual, as well as collaborative, study space.

## WHAT'S NEXT IN YOUR PIPELINE?

We're currently planning a faculty survey that will launch in fall 2025. And each year the assessment team invites library staff to submit proposals for user experience projects that can help improve library services. This year we're working on three of those projects: website navigation optimization; a survey on user needs for digital humanities support in social sciences and humanities disciplines; and the creation of an online guide for the use of ArchivesSpace, a web application used by archivists and library staff to create finding aids and manage collections such as archives, manuscripts and digital objects.

My hope is that members of the library community will keep sending in ideas for future projects like these. Habitually taking this work on builds a culture of user-focused assessment in the libraries. The projects don't have to be big if they help improve services,



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**“This experience has taught me things that will contribute greatly to my work”:**

## **MEET UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES 2024-2025**

### **RICHARD T. GREENER FELLOW ABBIGAIL WEBSTER**

Library and Information Science graduate student Abbigail Webster is spending this year exploring several library departments as University Libraries' 2024-2025 Richard T. Greener Fellow.

Awarded each academic year to a student who is seeking a career in professional librarianship and is currently enrolled in USC's Masters of Library and Information Science program, the Greener Fellowship gives its recipient a generous stipend and the opportunity to work for University Libraries over the course of the year, gaining a diverse set of experiences through hands-on library work.

Webster, who received a bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in public relations from University of South Carolina Upstate, is a second-year MLIS student. She began her fellowship rotation in Library Communications, then moved to Collection Management. Now working with Research and Instruction, she will finish her rotation in Digital Research Services.

Her work in communications included identifying library services and resources that may have needed more promotion, especially to fellow graduate students. “I loved learning about Digital Research Services for the article I wrote to promote their services to graduate students,” Webster says. During her time in collection management, Webster has helped with the reorganization of popular titles to improve accessibility, as well as helping the department identify recent award-winning books for possible addition to the collection.

“I've had the privilege of getting to know some of the librarians – hearing their stories and why they chose their careers – which is invaluable for someone like me who has just started their library career,” Webster says. “I predict that I will take away an even stronger love for librarianship, and a deeper understanding of the library's 'behind the scenes' functions. The combination of what I'm studying in my classes and the hands-on experience from this fellowship makes me more confident in my future library work. No matter what library field I end up in after graduation, this experience has taught me things – both about the library's technical processes and about myself – that will contribute greatly to my work.”

Abbigail Webster

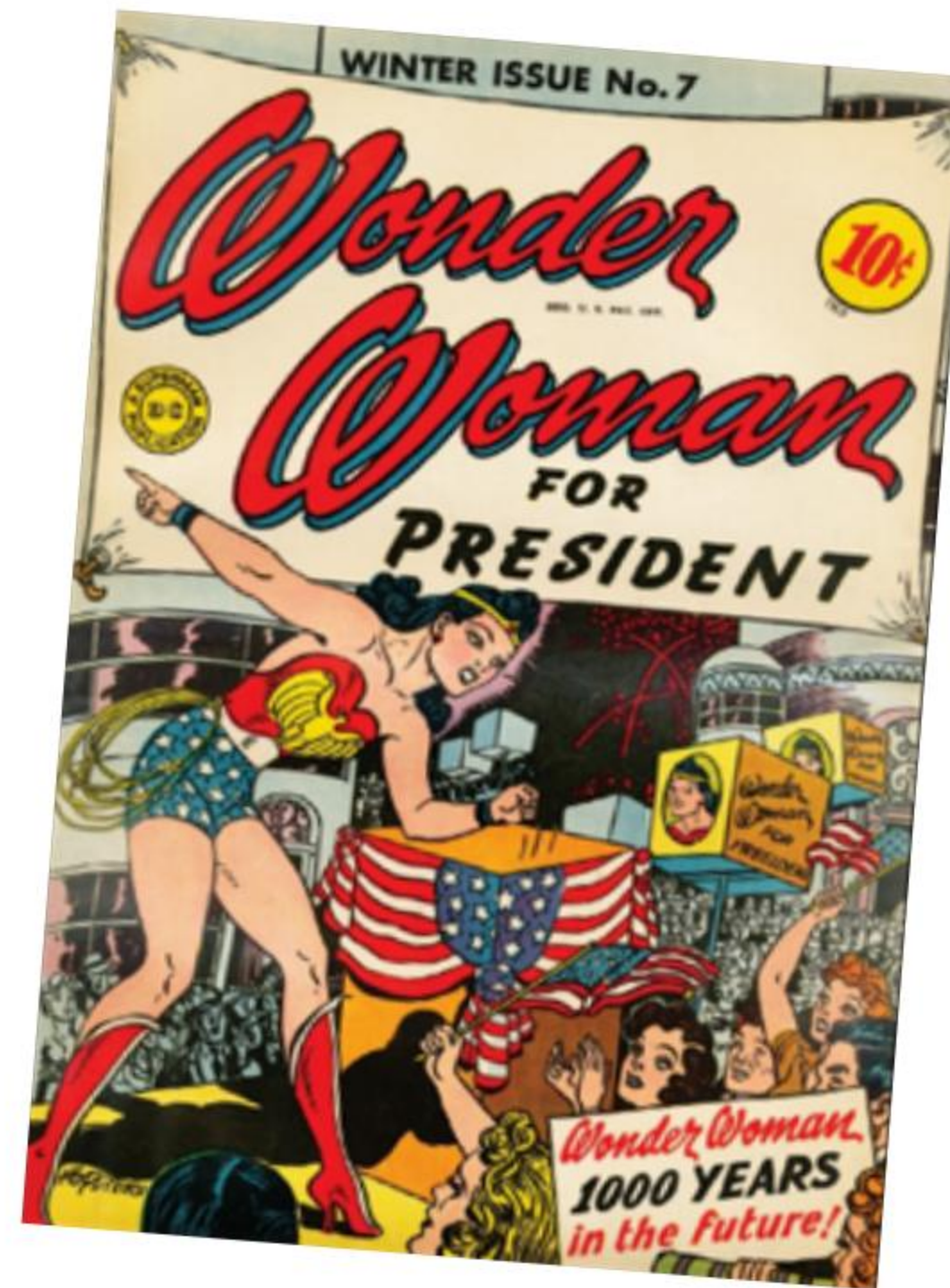


## From the small screen to students' hands: Rare Books acquires "Wonder Woman" TV scripts

USC students in classes ranging from cultural studies to TV production to women's studies have a new opportunity to get hands-on experience with original materials from a beloved program that touched on all these areas and more through the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections' newly acquired set of original scripts for the hit 1970s television series "Wonder Woman."

The new collection includes the original scripts used during the filming of the show, as well as handwritten notes from directors and producers and "treatments," notes that plan out the plot, from the show. Their acquisition builds upon and enriches USC's collection of Comic Books and Film and Media Studies materials.

"The scripts are a way for us to expand how we teach Film and Media Studies," says Michael Weisenburg, Director of the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. "They give students an opportunity to learn about twentieth-century methods of film and television production and a behind-the-scenes peek into what would have gone into making a television show of this caliber. They also serve as a model for comparison to other popular shows of its time, and how this show navigated the popular culture at the time of its production."



## University Libraries joins Association of Research Libraries data sharing initiative

University of South Carolina Libraries has joined the Association of Research Libraries' Realities of Academic Data Sharing (RADS) initiative, a research project aimed at understanding and addressing the complexities and costs associated with managing and sharing data from funded research.

The RADS cohort is currently made up of 11 academic research libraries nationwide, each of which has demonstrated a high level of interest and commitment to advancing the understanding of data management and sharing costs.

**"I am thrilled that University Libraries at the University of South Carolina will be joining several other institutions in the next phase of the RADS project," says Libraries Dean David Banush. "Understanding the full scope of required support for open data is an essential part of making this work viable for the long term."**

Initially funded by the US National Science Foundation from 2021 to 2023, the RADS Initiative is currently supported by the US Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through 2026.



**STUDENT WORKERS GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE WHILE WORKING FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES. HELP UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS BY HELPING US FUND STUDENT WORKERS! SCAN THE QR CODE TO GIVE TODAY.**

# AI Specialist supports librarians, faculty, students with emerging technologies

Artificial intelligence is increasingly recognized as an essential new frontier in higher education. But it remains unfamiliar and uncertain terrain for many scholars. That's why University Libraries is delighted to welcome a new librarian, Applied AI Specialist Vandana Srivastava, to our Digital Research Services Team.

As a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science and a member of USC's AI institute who also has years of experience as an instructor and an analyst, Srivastava has both the knowledge and the perspective to help members of the USC research community navigate the possibilities and the pitfalls of AI.

We asked Srivastava to explain how she envisions her role and how she can contribute to the Libraries' support of the research enterprise at USC.



Applied AI Specialist  
Vandana Srivastava

## **WHAT KINDS OF EXPERTISE DO YOU BRING TO THIS ROLE?**

As an experienced practitioner of AI, I can guide people not just on what AI tools can do but how to use them in conducting research – for example, how to create prediction models for textual data. Many researchers are working with very specific kinds of data sets, and I know a lot about which AI programs will work best with which kinds of data. And if I'm not the right person to help with a specific need, I can direct people to someone who can.

## **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST ADVANTAGES – AND PITFALLS – OF USING AI IN AN ACADEMIC SETTING?**

AI does two major things that can be very useful across multiple disciplines: prediction and classification. It's also helpful with coding, which can take a long time for occasional coders or non-coders. But if you rely too much on it for your academic work, you do not retain the knowledge that comes by reading and practicing. It's a very good tool, but there are ways in which it cannot replace the human touch. We are all unique as humans, and that uniqueness is what makes our scholarship distinctive.

## **HOW CAN MEMBERS OF THE USC COMMUNITY USE YOUR SERVICES?**

I'm available to help at all stages of the research process, across any discipline, and wherever AI methods are needed for analysis.

# Libraries' advanced statistics support program continues to grow

A pilot program at University Libraries to help researchers manage complex data proved so successful that it was expanded for the 2024-25 academic year.

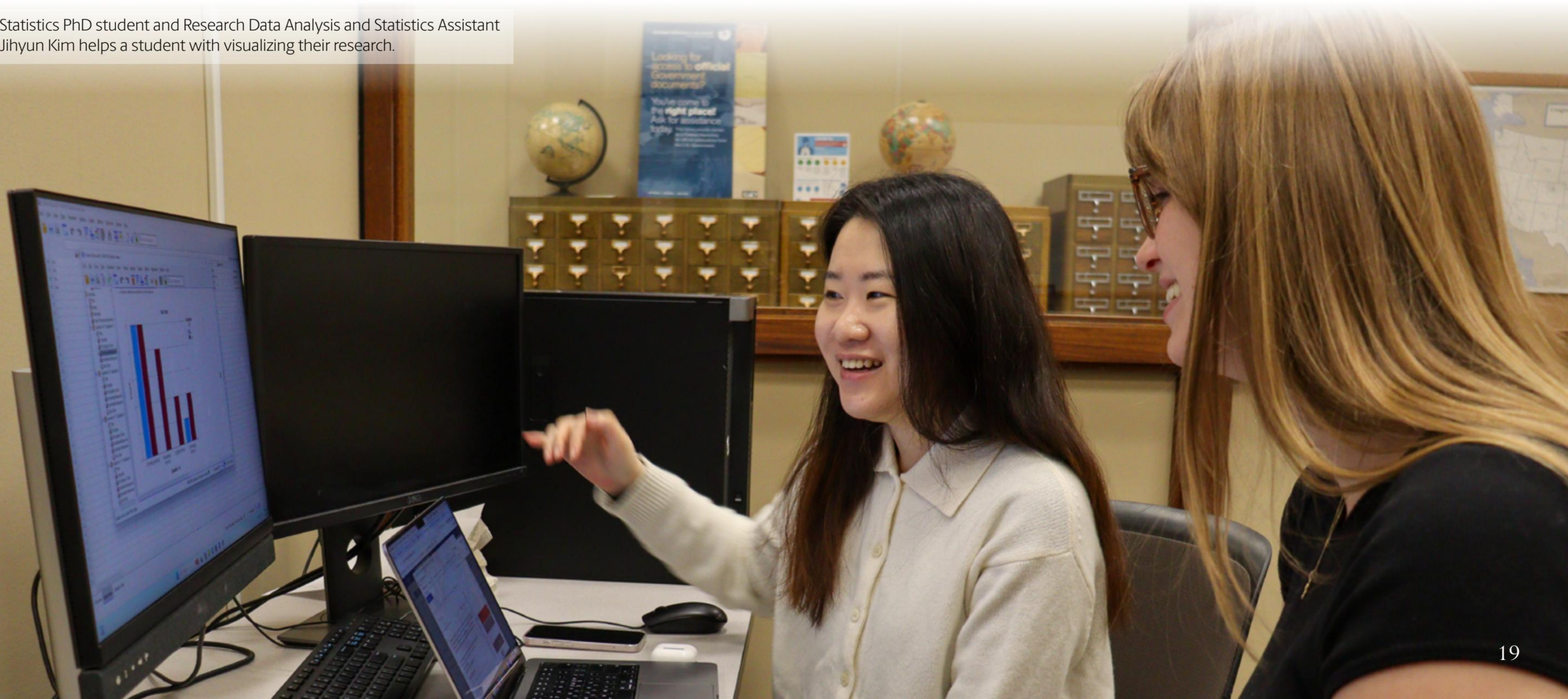
Launched in August of 2023, the Research Data Analysis and Statistics Support program provides support to researchers across all disciplines who are working with advanced or complex data. Available services include help with exploratory data analysis and statistical tests as well as with software including SAS, SPSS and NVivo. Faculty and students from almost every college on campus have used the service.

In the program's inaugural year, staff provided assistance for 10 hours each week. Because demand increased steadily, assistance is now available 20 hours a week. The service is staffed by a highly skilled Ph.D. student in statistics and supported in partnership with the Graduate School. Any member of the USC community, including undergraduate student researchers, can book an appointment.

Graduate School Dean Ann Vail says the program has been of significant value to graduate students: "I am grateful to the University Libraries for stepping up and filling a great need for graduate students. Data analysis and statistical support is key to graduate student success and timely completion of their research whether it be the thesis or dissertation."

University Libraries' core mission of supporting research activity across campus makes it a natural home for the program. "For many researchers across campus, there's been nowhere to go for help analyzing research data or doing advanced statistical work," says Research Data Librarian Stacy Winchester, who oversees the program. "University Libraries tries to provide services whenever it sees a campus-wide need."

Statistics PhD student and Research Data Analysis and Statistics Assistant Jihyun Kim helps a student with visualizing their research.



# Data Visualization Awards recognize outstanding student work

University Libraries honored the work of three USC Ph.D. candidates in February with the inaugural Graduate Student Data Visualization Awards.

The awards reflect the growing importance of data visualization and celebrate excellence in research by graduate students across the university.

The 2024 award winners were:

- First place: Information and Communications doctoral student Carrie Xiao for "The Importance of the World's Mangroves."
- Second place: Berthe Abi Zeid (Public Health) for "How are food and water insecurity associated with health outcomes in older Syrian refugees in Lebanon?" and Rachel Hantman (Clinical-Community Psychology) for "General Pediatrician Availability, ASD prevalence, and ADHD prevalence per 100K Children per County."

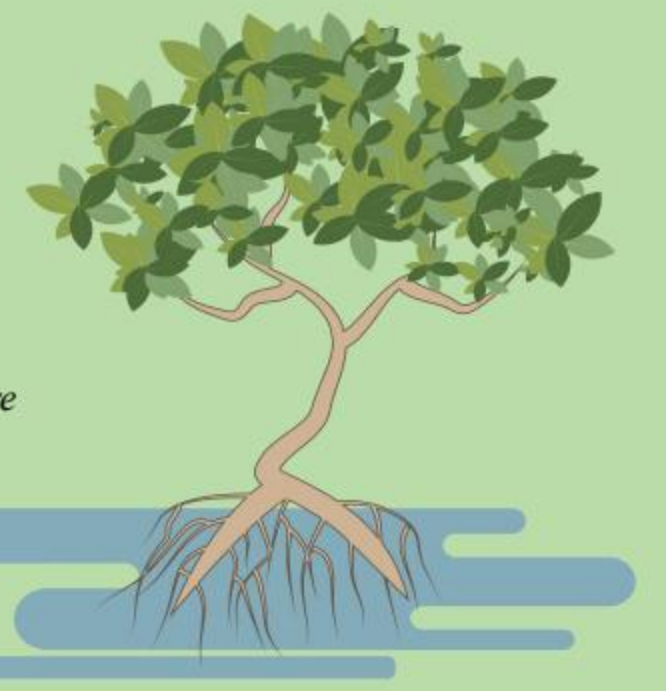
"The realm of data science is exploding across multiple disciplines," said Data Visualization Librarian Glenn Bunton, who coordinated the awards. "As our use of data becomes ever more sophisticated, skilled visualization of that data so that it's presented clearly, accurately and effectively becomes all the more essential."

Bunton's work with graduate students was what convinced him their research merited the kind of recognition the Data Visualization Awards afford. "This year's entries really showcase the great research our graduate students are doing," he said.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORLD'S MANGROVES

"If there are no mangrove forests, then the sea will have no meaning. It is like having a tree with no roots, for the mangroves are the roots of the sea."—fisherman, Trang Province, southern Thailand

Mangroves are a group of trees and shrubs that live in the coastal intertidal zone. There are about 80 different species of mangrove trees. All of these trees grow in areas with low-oxygen soil, where slow-moving waters allow fine sediments to accumulate.



### The Global Distribution of Mangroves-Map

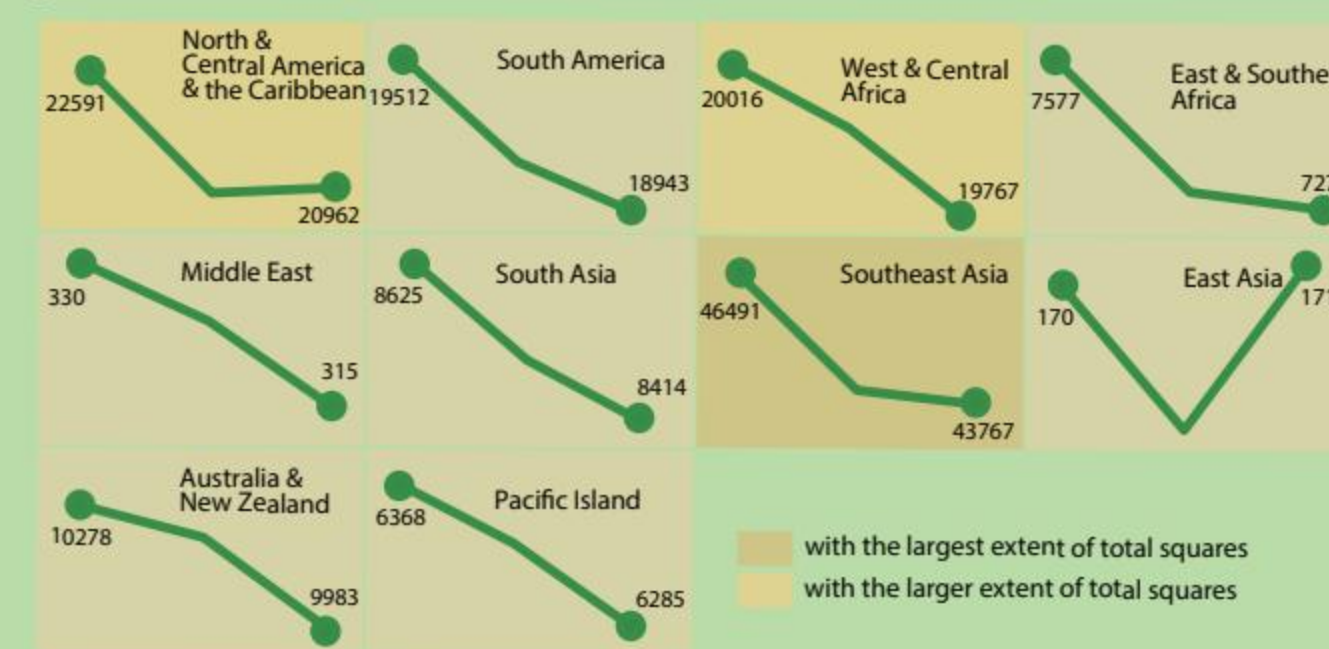
Mangroves can be found in over one hundred countries and territories in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. The largest percentage of mangroves is found between the 10°N and 10°S latitudes. These areas include the east coast of Africa, Australia, and New Zealand where mangroves occur 10-15° farther south.

In Japan, Florida, Bermuda, and the Red Sea, this range extends 5-7° farther north. Mangroves in the Indo-West Pacific are more diverse, consisting of more than 30 tree species, than those in Florida.



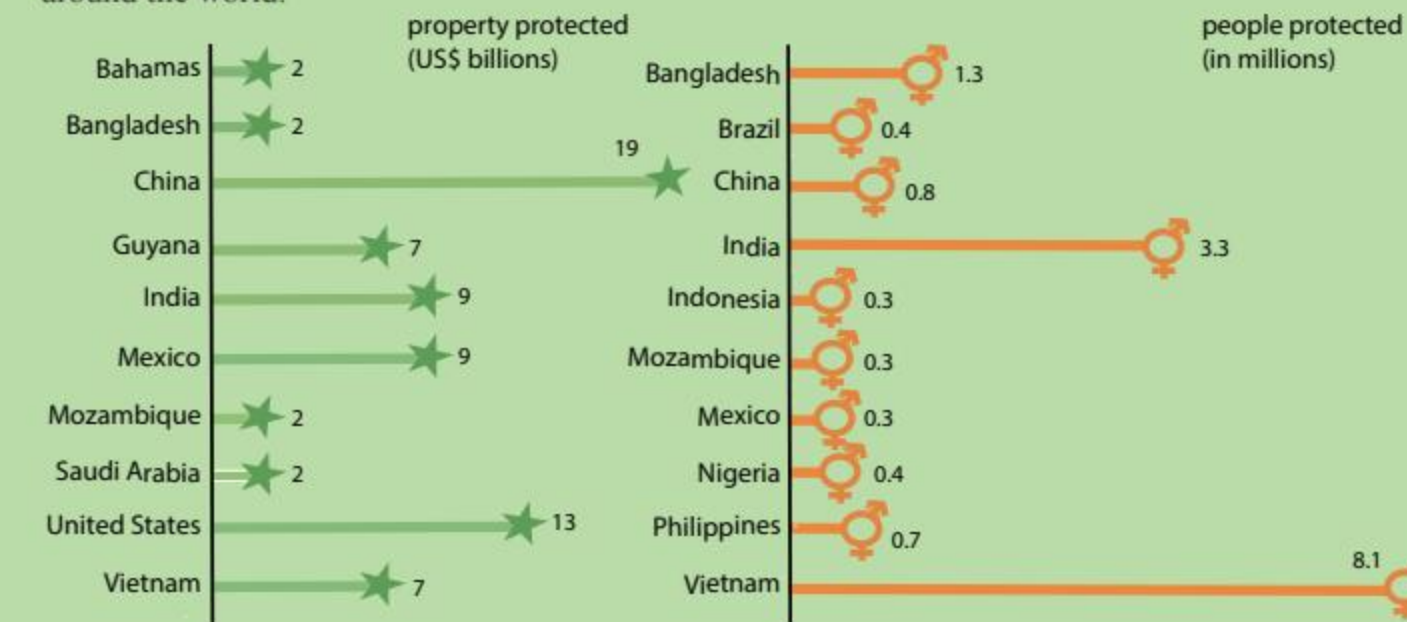
### The World's Mangroves Total Extent by Region-Slopes (in km square)

The extent of mangroves globally, showing the mix of gains and losses, and the cumulative net decline in 1996, 2010, and 2016 three years. The distribution of mangroves is divided into ten regions.



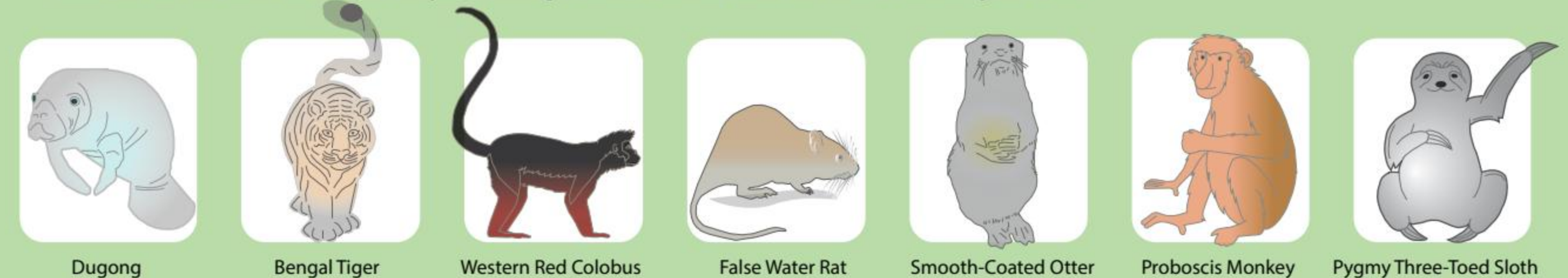
### Countries that Receive the Greatest Benefits from Mangroves in Flood Exposure Reduction-Lollipop Charts

Mangroves provide significant flood reduction benefits to people and property in critical 'hotspots' around the world.



### Home to Seven Endangered Species-Illustrations

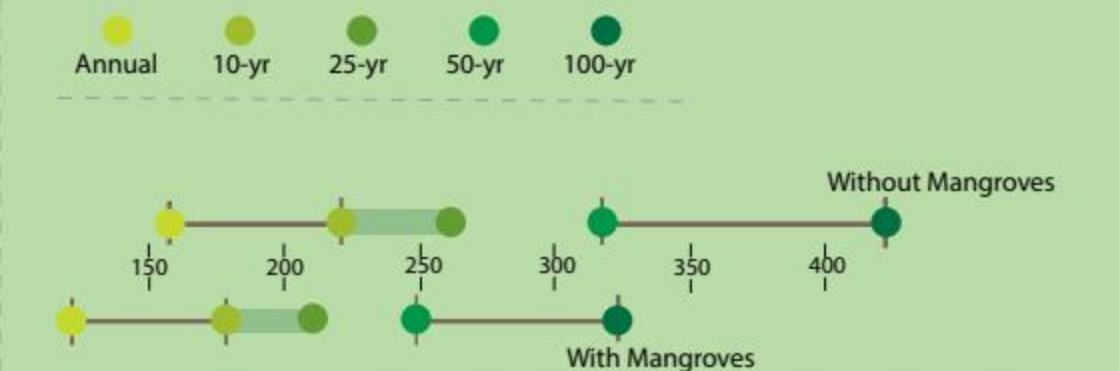
Here are some endangered species closely rely on mangroves for all or part of their lives as well as the flora associated with the mangroves themselves. These species are closely associated with each other and the wider ecosystem, forming a chain of sustenance which can break if even one species is lost.



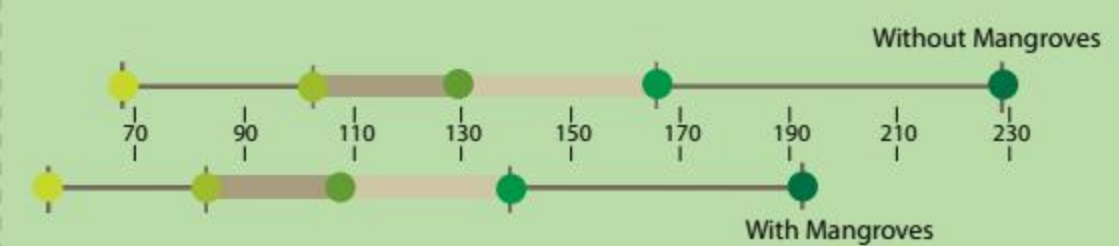
Sources: Giri, C., et al. (2011). Status and distribution of mangrove forests of the world using earth observation satellite data. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, 20(1), 154-159.  
 Losada, I. J., et al. (2018). The global value of mangroves for risk reduction. *Technical Report*, 42.  
 Menéndez, P., Losada, I. J., Torres-Ortega, S., Narayan, S., & Beck, M. W. (2020). The global flood protection benefits of mangroves. *Scientific reports*, 10(1), 1-11.  
 Spalding, M. D., & Leal, M. (2021). The state of the world's mangroves 2021. *Global Mangrove Alliance*, 79.

### Expected Benefits of Mangroves in Three Different Perspectives-Bullet Charts

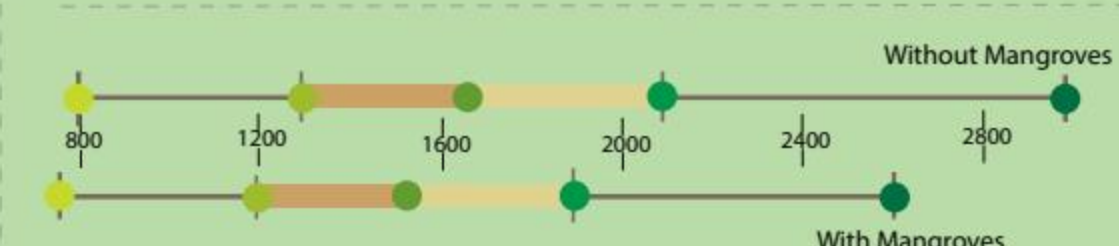
Values are the flooded land and people and damages to property with and without mangroves annually and for catastrophic events. The difference in flooding and damages is the benefit provided by mangroves. The catastrophic events are, for example, the storm event with a 1 in 10-yr return period ("10-yr").



The expected LAND FLOODED (x 1000 square kilometers) of the CATASTROPHIC EVENTS with and without Mangroves' benefit.



The expected PEOPLE AFFECTED (millions) for the CATASTROPHIC EVENTS with and without Mangroves' benefit.



The expected PROPERTY LOSS (US\$ billions) for the CATASTROPHIC EVENTS with and without Mangroves' benefit.

Carrie Jingyi Xiao 01/01/2024

# Keeping college affordable: Libraries' support of Open Educational Resources saves USC students more than \$3 million



Students access Library resources all over campus.

Textbooks have long been a significant expense for college students and their families – but that expense has been notably mitigated for many USC students in recent years thanks to increasing adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) by faculty with assistance from our librarians.

Running the gamut from textbooks to software to online learning modules, Open Educational Resources are education materials offered free of charge which can take the place of the textbooks students have traditionally had to purchase.

To date, faculty using OER and library-licensed resources for their classes have saved USC students more than \$3 million in textbook costs – \$3,343,564, to be exact. And use of these materials is growing steadily, increasing over 200% in the last three years.

In addition to helping faculty locate OER that can effectively replace their textbooks, librarians can also supply library-licensed materials and at times can purchase materials for classroom use to be held on electronic or physical course reserve to provide additional free options for students.

University Libraries' annual SCoer Awards program also provides both funding and support for faculty seeking to transition to the use of OER in the classroom.

"It's been inspiring to see instructors enthusiastically adopt OER and other no-cost learning materials," says Amie Freeman, assistant head of acquisitions and scholarly communication. "Not only are OER free to students, but because of the way they are licensed, OER allow faculty to customize their learning materials to align perfectly with their curriculum. While not every class is suitable for the adoption of OER, we are always happy to speak with faculty about available opportunities."

## Music Library panel helps students navigate evolving role of AI in academia

AI has the potential both to enhance and to undermine learning outcomes in ways that students and faculty alike continue to grapple with. An April 2024 panel on AI in academic research and writing organized by Music Library director Ana Dubnjakovic gave students in the School of Music the opportunity to explore how they can benefit from AI and where it can lead them astray.



Ana Dubnjakovic  
Music Library Director

Attended by some 20 students ranging from undergraduates to Ph.D. candidates, the panel featured Dubnjakovic and piano professor Omar Roy, who is one of the fellows of the USC provost's inaugural AI Teaching Fellowship. They fielded questions on topics ranging from acceptable use of Large Language Models (LLMs) in student research to the intellectual property issues that could come into play when work is created with the assistance of an AI tool to the environmental impacts of our growing use of AI.

"We are in the beginning stages of addressing this issue as a society and higher education in general, and individual faculty are divided on the subject," Dubnjakovic says. "However, we all agree that LLM's and other forms of AI are here to stay and ignoring them is not an option."

**Dubnjakovic's own exposure to AI tools as a librarian has significantly enhanced her ability to help her students navigate these issues, she says: "In libraries, we are already using so many AI tools and have been doing so much longer than elsewhere on campus. Our mission is to help students, and they do usually need guidance with LLMs."**

Above all, the panel showcased the benefits of ongoing dialog about AI among all members of the university community.

"AI in teaching and learning is a topic that keeps us all on our toes," Dubnjakovic says, "and we owe it to our students to provide them with the most current answers as they continue to evolve."

## USC Press and University Libraries launch open-access publishing platform

University Libraries and the University of South Carolina Press are creating opportunities for scholars to reach a wider audience and do so more affordably through Open Carolina, a new open access publishing platform.

Open access publication makes academic and professional materials such as books and articles available for free online without paywalls or other restrictions. The animating principle underlying open access publication is that research, much of which is publicly funded, should be freely available, regardless of a reader's (or a reader's institution's) ability to pay.

"Open access has always been premised on openness and equity of reading, but it's always, also, set up barriers to access for creators," says Michael J. McGandy, director of USC Press. "Someone needs to provide a reasonable amount of financial support to cover the publishing costs that are involved in creating and disseminating scholarly communication. In many fields, that burden has fallen largely on individual researchers."

That's where University Libraries comes in. Thanks to consistent funding from the Libraries, Open Carolina has a sustainable model that will allow scholars with limited publishing funds to share their research via the platform, partially or totally foregoing associated fees.

Open Carolina offers opportunities to a wide range of scholars and researchers regardless of university affiliation. Proposed works undergo the same intensive peer review and editorial processes as traditionally published books and articles, allowing the university to maintain high standards and join the conversation with other Research 1 institutions that prioritize equitable, open access publishing.

"Open Carolina will enable more people to access more works that are particularly interesting or valuable to communities who might not be able to see or interact with this kind of scholarship," says University Libraries Dean David Banush. "It broadens the audience and makes scholarship that otherwise would be hidden behind paywalls or other barriers more accessible."

# New Digital Collections website showcases rich history of South Carolina's lumber and furniture industries

South Carolina's historic roots in the lumber industry are on full display in a new website launched by University Libraries. The website, "Wood Basket of the World: Lumbering, Manufacturing and Conserving South Carolina's Forests," showcases an extensive collection of materials related to the Williams Furniture Company, a unionized lumber plant formerly located in Sumter, South Carolina.

Collectively, these materials tell a richly detailed story about the furniture and lumber industries in South Carolina in the 20th century and about the lives and work experiences of the many people employed in these industries.

The Williams Furniture Company collection has been central to the work of several USC researchers as well as an Honors College seminar taught by history department chair Jessica Efenbein. It was also the subject of a summer 2024 exhibit at USC's McKissick Museum. A C-SPAN television program on the project aired in September 2023.

While the collection belongs to the Sumter County Museum, University Libraries undertook the work of digitizing it. "So many students have had the opportunity to explore South Carolina's lumber and furniture industries through the Williams Furniture Company's records. Digitizing the collection opens it up to the public in a way that the physical collection isn't," said Digital Collections Librarian Katie Hoskins.

The website was created as not only a landing page for the Williams Furniture Digital Collection, but also to expand the ideas that Efenbein and her classes have been exploring through their research.

Part of the new website is dedicated to oral history interviews surrounding this history. Andrea L'Hommedieu, Oral Historian at the South Caroliniana Library, visited Efenbein's class to teach the students how they could collect these oral histories.

"The diversity and strength of University Libraries is an enormous asset to statewide projects like 'Wood Basket,'" said Efenbein. "That small communities and organizations across South Carolina can receive the world-class expertise of librarians, archivists, oral historians and other committed staff members is invaluable to projects like this. Their efforts have also enriched the experiences of hundreds of USC students. As an historian, I could not be more grateful for the partnership of my library colleagues."



Images from The Williams Furniture Company Collection



# From English 102 to advanced graduate work, Libraries instruction sessions have major impact

In fiscal year 2024, University Libraries' Research and Instruction librarians conducted 586 instruction sessions, reaching some 12,000 students. Those sessions, which spanned all academic disciplines, have a significant ongoing impact: respondents to our 2024 student survey who have received libraries instruction report both higher use of and higher comfort with library services than those who have not.

While the core goal of all instructional sessions is to teach research skills, each session is customized to the specific needs of the class, which can run the gamut from English 102 to advanced graduate work.

"We try to make each session as interactive as possible," says Research and Instruction Department Head Sharon Verba. "That helps us see where students are picking things up quickly and where they're not, so we can adjust as we go along to make sure they get as much out of the session as possible."

The goal, Verba says, is for students to become more comfortable with the research process and to recognize that both Libraries staff and their instructors are here to help them.

"What I find most rewarding about research and instruction is witnessing the "aha" moment for a student. That moment is the most rewarding part of my job because I can see that I'm helping to build a student's confidence in their abilities. Knowing a student feels more confident because of something we did is why I love what I do!"

**-Kala Dunn, Anthropology, Education and Geography Librarian**

"I really enjoy working with students, whether in groups or one-on-one, because they bring so much to the process. They're interested, but they don't know what's available to them. Helping them work through that can be a really exciting and interesting experience."

**-Sharon Verba, Humanities Librarian, Head of Research and Instruction**



Head of Research and Instruction Sharon Verba assists students with using Library services.



Research and Instruction Librarian Jean Mays shows students how to access the Libraries' databases.





**“There is so much energy from people who love USC”:  
UNIVERSITY HISTORIAN JOINS  
LIBRARIES FACULTY**



Dr. Evan Faulkenbury has joined the University Libraries faculty as USC's inaugural University Historian.

In addition to serving as a principal resource on matters of historic interpretation, representation, and commemoration of the University of South Carolina, Dr. Faulkenbury will advise university leadership on matters surrounding building names, historical markers and monuments, and public art. He will also research, create and disseminate original scholarship on the University's past.

We asked Dr. Faulkenbury to introduce himself to the USC community by describing his background in public history, his goals as University Historian and what drew him to the University of South Carolina.

**WHAT (AND WHERE) WAS YOUR MOST RECENT PREVIOUS ROLE?**

I spent the last eight years as an assistant professor and then an associate professor in the history department at the State University of New York at Cortland. During those eight years, I published two books and several articles, taught lots of classes, and became really involved in the community doing local history projects.

**WHAT DREW YOU TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA?**

I wanted to come to USC so I could hyperfocus on a single place with a long history. There is a deep well for what we can cover, and there is so much energy from people who love USC. I wanted to be invested in a place where I could keep doing endless public history projects.

**WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AS UNIVERSITY HISTORIAN?**

My overarching, long-term goal is to ensure that everyone—students, alums, staff, faculty, community partners—feel like they are part of and have a stake in our collective past. To get there, first, I'm trying to meet as many people as I can who have worked on university history projects in the past. I'll begin to compile everything, then see what areas of history we can cover next and how we can get the public involved.

**WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH PUBLIC HISTORY?**

I learned about public history first while working on my MA in history at UNC Charlotte, then I became even more involved while I did my Ph.D. in history at UNC Chapel Hill. At UNC, I worked for three years with the Southern Oral History Program. I learned all about oral history and how to work with communities, record memories, and build public-facing projects. From there, I took my knowledge of oral history and kept expanding into other public history areas at SUNY Cortland, such as physical and digital exhibits, ghost tours, and community history.

**WHAT ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA INTERESTS YOU THE MOST?**

The fact that there is so much of it. Since 1801, that gives us 224 years to work with...224 years (and counting) of people and stories that still affect us today.

# Libraries Faculty/Staff Scholarly Activity

## PUBLICATIONS

### JEANNIE BRITTON

- “Romanticism’s Media and the Digital Piranesi.” *Studies in Romanticism*, Fall 2024.
- “Giovanni Battista Piranesi, the Control of Nature, and the Logic of the Book.” 1650-1850: *Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era*, Spring 2024.

### DANIELA CURRÒ

- “The Sustainable Film Archive: Film Heritage Institutions in Times of Climate Change.” In Serena Bellotti, Laura Cesaro, Cristina Formenti, eds., *The (Un)bearable Lightness of Media, Proceedings of XXIX International Film and Media Studies Conference*, Mimesis, Milano – Udine.
- “[Looney Lens – outtakes].” In *Il Cinema Ritrovato 2024 festival catalog*, Cineteca di Bologna, Bologna.

### KALA DUNN

- “Creating my own experience: Navigating a library graduate program to become an instruction librarian.” In M. W. Johnson, ed., *Training Library Instructors: A Guide to Training Graduate Students and Librarians* (Vol. 1). Association of College and Research Libraries.
- With Brooks, K., & Wigfall, A. “After Hours Study Bash: A library building success through inter-institutional collaborations.” In C. Abdeljawad & D. Theiss, eds., *The Small to Mid-Size Academic Library: Collaborations and Outreach*. Association of College and Research Libraries.

### HEATHER HECKMAN AND DANIELA CURRO

- “Eastman Color.” In J. Layton and C. Kui, eds., *Film Atlas*.

### HEATHER HECKMAN, LAURA MAJOR, AND LYDIA PAPPAS

- “The Chinese Film Collection at the University of South Carolina.” In Sarah Street and Joshua Yumibe, eds., *Global Film Color. The Monopack Revolution at Midcentury*. Rutgers UP.

### CRAIG KEENEY AND LAURA CARTER

- “Our Search for the Celebrated Armstrongs.” NEH Blog, 27 March 2024.

### NATHAN SAUNDERS

- Review of Gatewood: Kentucky’s Uncommon Man. In *Journal of Southern History* 90, November 2024.
- Review of Last Orator for the Millhands. In *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 120, February 2024.
- “Roundtable: How Historians and Archivists Worked Through and Survived the Pandemic.” *Historiography in Mass Communication* 10, January, 2024.

### BILL SUDDUTH

- (Re)Defining Smart Home Through an HCI Perspective: A Systematic Review of over Two Decades of Smart Home Conceptualization and Research.

### VALERIE VERA

- With Wagner, T. L. “The role of information and communication technologies in disclosing and reporting sexual assault among young adults: A systematic review.” *Journal of the Association for Information Science & Technology*.
- With Le, K. “‘There’s always a way to get around the guidelines’: Nonsuicidal self-injury and content moderation on TikTok.” *Social Media + Society*, 10(2).
- With Kitzie, V., Vera, A.N., & Wagner, T.L. “Bridging the gap: Fostering inclusion through community forums in public libraries toolkit.” Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina.
- With Kitzie, V., & Vera, A.N. “Examining public library service to LGBTQIA+ communities for health information: Project results and resources.” Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina.

### VALERIE VERA AND HEATHER HECKMAN

- With Roy, K., Khandelwal, V., Surana, H., Heckman, H., & Sheth, A. “GEAR-Up: Generative AI and external knowledge-based retrieval: Upgrading scholarly article searches for systematic reviews.” *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 38(21).

### ELIZABETH WEST

- *The University of South Carolina Trivia Book*. Lyons Press.

### GREG WILSBACHER

- With Zhai, Lujun, Suxia Cui, Yonghui Wang, Song Wang, and Jun Zhou, “Historical Blurry Video-Based Face Recognition.” *Journal of Imaging* 10(9).

## PRESENTATIONS

### KATE BOYD AND KATIE HOSKINS

- October 19, 2024. Poster Presentation: South Carolina Council on Human Relations Digitization Project. “Where Do We Go From Here?”: Interpreting and Preserving the African American Civil Rights Movement, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

### KATE BOYD AND LANCE DUPRE

- April 8, 2024. “Pinckney Papers, ArchivesSpace and Archivematica.” Pinckney Papers Symposium, University of South Carolina.

### KATE BOYD AND VANDANA SRIVASTAVA

- With Freeman, J. October 19, 2024. Poster Presentation: On the Books, Mining for Jim Crow in South Carolina. Center for Civil Rights History and Research Conference, Columbia, SC.

### JEANNIE BRITTON

- September 2024. “The Letter as Image: Illustrating the Correspondence of Ignatius Sancho with Laurence Sterne.” Extra Extra!: the Material History of the Visually Altered Book. Huntington Library.
- August 2024. “Fiction, Fact, and Abolition: The Printing History of Ignatius Sancho’s Correspondence with Laurence Sterne.” North

American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Washington, DC.

- April 2024. “The Nature of the Book: Poetry and Print in Erasmus Darwin’s ‘Loves of the Plants.’” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Toronto.

### DANIELA CURRÒ

- April 22, 2024. “For a Sustainable Film Archive: How the Global South Can Inspire the Film Archival Community.” FIAF Symposium hosted by the Thai Film Archive, Thailand. (Participated remotely.)

### ANA DUBNJAKOVIC

- July, 2024. “Students’ Perspectives on LLM Use in Research.” AI in Teaching and Learning, Orlando, FL.
- With Boye, G., Bruhn C., & Green, L. G. October 2024. “Music Librarians Teaching Graduate Music Bibliography: Changes, Challenges, ChatGPT.” Southeast Music Library Association, Greenville, SC.

### LANCE DUPRE

- March 5, 2024. “Preserving Probate Records.” 2024 Internet2 Community Exchange, Chicago Illinois.

### AMIE FREEMAN AND CHRISTEE PASCALE

- November 15, 2024. “Wait, Can We Do That? A Review of TDM Statements in Licenses.” The Charleston Conference, Charleston, SC.

### HEATHER HECKMAN AND AMY MEANEY

- November, 2024. “Preparing Streaming Media for Accessibility: Three Organizations Share Their Efforts.” Association of Moving Image Archivists annual conference.

### KATIE HOSKINS

- With Akers, R., Elfenbein, J., & Davis, J. November 15, 2024. Panel presentation: Lumber, Wood Products, & Forest Conservation: Build. Humanities Conference, Providence, RI.
- With Allen, C., Gilbert, H., & Serrao, J. October 30, 2024. Panel presentation: South Carolina Digital Library (SCDL) Showcase. South Carolina Library Association Conference, Columbia, SC.

### KIMBERLY O’QUINN

- With Anthony Gonzalez. April 12. “Startex: Men and Women at Work and Play (ca.1940) and Spartan Mill as Community (Walter Montgomery, 1938).” Orphan Film Symposium at the Museum of the Moving Image, New York City.

### DAVID SHAY

- October 30, 2024. “Training Tomorrow’s Workforce: Hosting Library Science Interns.” South Carolina Library Association.

### VALERIE VERA

- With Vuruma, S. K. R., Wu, D., Sen Gupta, S., Aust, L., Bellamy, W., Ren, Y., Kasson, E., Chen, L., Cavazos-Rehg, P., Hu, D., & Huang, M. July 12, 2024. “Can GPT-4 help detect quit vaping intentions? An exploration of automatic data annotation approach.” International Workshop on AI Applications in Public Health and Social Services (AI-PHSS 2024), 22nd International Conference of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (AIME), Salt Lake City, UT.

# University Libraries new hires, promotions, retirements

## IN 2024, WE WELCOMED 15 NEW EMPLOYEES:

Jenna Conant, Archivist, South Caroliniana Library  
Adam Crosby, Archivist, South Caroliniana Library  
Kala Dunn, Research & Instruction Librarian  
Evan Faulkenbury, University Historian  
Nicole Molyneux, User Services Specialist  
Showanda Mosley, Archivist, South Caroliniana Library  
Tamara Nurse, Library Specialist  
Michelle Patterson, Program Coordinator, Digital Collections  
Krista Russell, Development Office Manager  
Jillian Smith, Archivist, South Caroliniana Library  
Vandana Srivastava, Applied AI Specialist  
Rachel Hunnicutt, Desktop/Public Computing Specialist, LIT  
Brandon Melendez, Building Manager, Libraries Administration  
Ben Rubin, Digital Film Technician, MIRC  
Cambria Sheridan, Librarian, Research & Instruction

## FIVE LIBRARIES EMPLOYEES WERE PROMOTED TO NEW ROLES:

Abby Cole, Development, Communications, and Social Media Manager  
Taryn Cooksey, Head of Processing, South Caroliniana Library  
Jeff Berg, Monograph Team Leader, Acquisitions  
Cookie Woo, Serials Team Leader, Acquisitions  
Kristel Sekula, Assistant Library Annex Manager, Library Annex

## AND WE BID FAREWELL TO FIVE RETIREES:

Marilee Birchfield, Social Sciences Librarian, Research & Instruction  
Ann Dorr, HR Coordinator  
Stephanie Learner, Development Office Manager  
Kate Moore, Archivist, South Carolina Political Collections  
Deborah Nelson, Library Technical Assistant, Acquisitions

- With Vuruma, S. K. R., Wu, D., Sen Gupta, S., Aust, L., Henry, C., Ren, Y., Kasson, R., Chen, L., Cavazos-Rehg, P., Hu, D., & Huang, M. July 9, 2024. "Utilizing large language models to identify Reddit users considering vaping cessation for digital interventions." Implementing AI in Healthcare Workshop, 22nd International Conference of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (AIME), Salt Lake City, UT.

### MICHAEL C. WEISENBURG

- May 2024. "It was what we call plantation manners which drove peaceable forgiving New England to emancipation without phrase: Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Gilmore Simms, and the competing ideologies of civilization in the plantationocene." American Literature Association Annual Conference.

### STACY WINCHESTER

- June 7, 2024. "Dipping your toes into research data services: Data management plan reviews." PASCAL Membership Conference, Columbia, SC.

## GRANTS

### JEANNIE BRITTON

- Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation grant, PI: Ignatius Sancho exhibition (2024-25), \$10,000

### DANIELA CURRÒ

- "Supporting training in moving image archiving for interns from groups historically underrepresented in the audiovisual profession". USC Center for Civil Rights History and Research grant, \$5,700

### DANIELA CURRÒ (PI) AND LAURA MAJOR

- "Vision and Ambition: William Fox and his Fox Film Corporation as seen through Fox newsreel outtakes, 1920-1929". Matching grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) to preserve nitrate reels from the Fox Movietone News film collection, \$39,240

### KATIE HOSKINS AND CRAIG KEENEY

- "South Carolina Digital Newspaper Program." National Endowment for the Humanities National Digital Newspaper Program, \$320,863

### SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

- Retrospective Cataloging of Manuscripts. Samuel Freeman Trust, \$30,000
- Digitizing the Williams-Chesnut-Manning papers. Jenrette Foundation, \$20,000

### GREG WILSBACHER (PI)

- With Dr. Song Wang (Co-PI) and Dr. Jun Zhou (Co-PI), "Virtual bench: a hybrid research and computation platform for digital surrogates of motion picture films". National Endowment for the Humanities, \$349,106

Dear friends,

Thank you for your incredible support of the University Libraries in 2024. Your generosity has made a lasting impact, allowing us to update furnishings, offer innovative learning spaces to students and researchers, and preserve and digitize valuable collections.



This year, we've been able to support groundbreaking research and foster a deeper love of learning across our campus. Your commitment fuels our mission, inspiring discovery and scholarship for present and future Gamecocks. We are truly grateful for your partnership in advancing the vision of the University Libraries to connect communities, enhance understanding and inspire imaginations.

Forever to Thee,

Jennifer Campbell '99  
Lead Senior Director of Development  
University Libraries

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“I was excited to learn that my alma mater was selected to hold the Marine Corps Films Repository collection. The collection consists of thousands of reels of footage taken by Marine Corps combat cameramen during some of our nation’s battles. This footage, once damaged, can never be replaced. The University of South Carolina Library division has taken monumental steps to preserve and protect our history, from Iwo Jima to Vietnam, for future generations. I am very proud to be part of this project, the University of South Carolina, and the Marine Corps.”

**CAROLINE FERMIN, '85  
DR. FERMIN, A 25-YEAR VETERAN OF THE  
MARINE CORPS AND THE SECOND WOMAN  
TO GRADUATE FROM THE MARINE CORPS  
WAR COLLEGE, IS THE 2024 RECIPIENT OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S OUTSTANDING  
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# Give 4 Garnet supports new furniture for students in Thomas Cooper

Thanks to the generosity of the 126 libraries donors who took part in Give 4 Garnet, USC's annual day of giving, in March, Thomas Cooper Library can continue replacing and upgrading furniture in popular study spaces.

In summer 2024, the dated furniture in Scholar's Corner, the reading space at the front of Thomas Cooper, was replaced with new seating and tables that have made the space more inviting and much more heavily used. Upgrades are also planned for the graduate student lounge on level 5.

More than 100,000 students visit Thomas Cooper each month, so our furniture is heavily used and needs to be both durable and comfortable. Sustainable, quality furniture is expensive, which is why philanthropic support makes a critical difference in our ability to provide the kind of study space our students need and deserve.

Give 4 Garnet 2025 will take place March 26-27, and donations will once again support the purchase of furniture. We invite all friends and supporters of the Libraries to help us make Thomas Cooper an inviting space for our students.



**WANT TO BE A PART OF MAKING THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY THE BEST IT CAN BE FOR OUR STUDENTS?  
HELP FUND STUDENT STUDY SPACES! SCAN THE QR CODE TO GIVE TODAY.**

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“I am incredibly thankful for Col. Becht’s generous support of my internship with the Fox Movietone collection. As this internship allows me to spend five days a week in the office, I’ve been able to experience an incredibly immersive, comprehensive projection of a professional work environment. Beyond furthering my practical understanding of film handling and preservation, these decomposing films have taught me something far greater. Every frame of every single reel offers an image of history that I’ve only ever heard told in distant, dusty words in old textbook pages. Yet here I am, holding these films in my hands. All of this to say, I have a deep, devout reverence for this medium and project, as each reel offers me a direct encounter with history and culture.”

**MADELINE WALSH,  
MIRC INTERN WHOSE WORK WAS FUNDED BY  
COLONEL AND MRS. BECHT**

When USC alumnus Colonel Christian Becht and his wife Beth toured University Libraries last fall, Colonel Becht realized that a single gift to the Libraries could have a dual impact, both supporting the preservation of an essential collection and creating a professional development opportunity for a USC student. His donation to the Moving Image Research Collections allowed MIRC to hire a student to work with the Movietone News collection, which provides remarkable footage of 20th-century world events but which is fragile and requires special care. In turn, the work Colonel Becht funded has allowed USC undergraduate Madeline Walshe to gain valuable skills that she can carry forward into her professional life.

“Both as a graduate and undergraduate student I used the University of South Carolina Libraries: Thomas Cooper, McKissick, and South Caroliniana. But until my recent tour of the campus libraries, I never knew of the vast resources the libraries have. Most of the libraries’ resources are focused on the students. However, I was surprised at how many researchers from the state, the nation and even other countries use the Moving Image Research Collections. My wife and I financially support our local historical museum. During conversations with them, Beth and I learned that they had difficulty finding qualified employees that have the skills to protect the films in their collections. I learned from University Libraries staff that the MIRC has a similar need. Our funding an intern at MIRC would help fill that need and provide that USC graduate with employment skills. Beth and I look forward to working with the UL staff on future similar projects.”

**COLONEL CHRISTIAN BECHT, BA & MA, HISTORY**

# University Libraries By the Numbers 2024

## Scholarly communications



**322**

**ARTICLES PUBLISHED  
OPEN ACCESS**

**\$655,000**

**ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGES SAVED**

## Reference and Instruction

**586**

**INSTRUCTION SESSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**12,000**

**STUDENTS REACHED THROUGH INSTRUCTION**

**18,000**

**REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

## Supporting student success

**40,000**

**STUDY ROOM BOOKINGS**

**4,335**

**TECH COOP BOOKINGS**

**4,089**

**DEVICES CHECKED OUT**



## Digital resources

**2 million**

**DIGITAL COLLECTION HITS**

**2 million**

**JOURNAL ARTICLE DOWNLOADS**

**4 million**

**DATABASE SEARCHES**





Research and Instruction Librarian Kala Dunn assists a student with accessing digital resources



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